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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Greece, Netherlands,  
Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Upper Volta: revised  
draft resolution

Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning  
natural resources shared by two or more States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the pertinent provisions of its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, in which it reaffirmed the principle of full permanent sovereignty of every State over its natural resources, and the responsibility of States as set out in the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1/ to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States and to co-operate in developing the international law regarding liability and compensation for such damages,

Recalling its resolution 3129 (XXVIII) of 13 December 1973, entitled "Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States",

Also recalling the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, by its decision 6/14 of 19 May 1978, 2/ invited the General Assembly to adopt the draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/33/25), annex I.

by two or more States, including the explanatory note, contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States established under Governing Council decision 44 (III) of 25 April 1975, 3/

Noting also the report by the Secretary-General requested by the General Assembly in resolution 33/87 of 15 December 1978 and containing summaries of the comments made by Governments regarding the draft principles, as well as other significant information, recommendations and suggestions in connexion therewith, 4/

Desiring to promote effective co-operation among States for the development of international law regarding the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States,

Recognizing the right of States to provide specific solutions on a bilateral or regional basis,

Recalling that the principles have been drawn up for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States,

1. Takes note of the report as adopted of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts established under Governing Council decision 44 (III) in conformity with Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII);

2. Adopts the draft principles as guidelines and recommendations in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States without prejudice to the binding nature of those rules already recognized as such in international law;

3. Requests all States to use the principles as guidelines and recommendations in the formulation of bilateral or multilateral conventions regarding natural resources shared by two or more States, on the basis of the principle of good faith and in the spirit of good neighbourliness and in such a way as to enhance and not to affect adversely development and the interests of all countries and in particular of the developing countries;

4. Further requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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3/ UNEP/GC.6/17.

4/ A/34/557 and Corr.1.