

SELECTED DOCUMENTS

UN/General Assembly

53rd Session*

– Resolutions Adopted –

(Selection)

53/24 International Year of Mountains, 2002*

The General Assembly:

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/30 of 29 July 1998, 72/

Recalling also the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 on sustainable mountain development, 73/

Noting the work already undertaken to achieve sustainable mountain development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including its role as task manager for chapter 13 of Agenda 21,

1. **Proclaims** the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains;

2. **Invites** the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve as the lead agency for the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

3. **Calls upon** Governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the guidelines of the Economic and Social Council for international years and anniversaries and to lend other forms of support to the International Year of Mountains;

4. **Encourages** all Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year of Mountains to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the state of the preparations for the International Year of Mountains. □

* L.24, 10.11.1998

72/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. 1998. Supplement No. 1 (E/1998/98).

73/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro. 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference. resolution 1, annex II.

53/185 International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon*

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997 on interna-

tional cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, 58/

Expressing its deepest concern about the widespread and devastating effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation on most of the regions of the world, especially during the period 1997 to 1998, which scientists have recognized as the period in which the El Niño Southern Oscillation has had its strongest manifestation on record,

Noting the progress made in the understanding of the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and noting further that a continued increase in the collection and exchange of data and information could assist in the modelling and prediction of the recurrence of this natural phenomenon,

Noting also that a phenomenon opposite to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, known as La Niña, can, according to scientific predictions, occur in and affect several regions of the world, and that international cooperation could be needed in order to reduce its impact,

Stressing that any credible strategy for the reduction of the natural disaster effects of future El Niño occurrences must be based on effective dialogue and cooperation between the scientific and technological areas of the United Nations system and its operational responsibilities in the fields of disaster management, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, technical cooperation and capacity-building, including data-collection, monitoring and early warning systems, at all levels,

1. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the report of the Secretary-General 59/ on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 and endorses the recommendations and conclusions contained therein;

2. **Expresses its appreciation** for the cooperation provided by the United Nations system to the countries affected in their efforts to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and for the valuable cooperation given by the international community;

3. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the outcome of the International Conference on Early Warning Systems for the Reduction of Natural Disasters, convened within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at Potsdam, Germany, from 7 to 11 September 1998;

4. **Expresses its satisfaction** at the organization of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 52/200;

5. **Decides** that the report on the outcome of that Meeting will be considered under appropriate agenda items at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council and at the special session

58/ A/53/487.

59/ Ibid.

of the General Assembly for the in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 60/

6. **Also decides** to consider the La Niña phenomenon in the context of the implementation of its resolution 52/200;

7. **Calls** for the continued and full implementation of its resolution 52/200;

8. **Welcomes** the convening, in 1999, of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the El Niño phenomenon, to be held at Lima, which will have a comprehensive approach, encompassing scientific, technical, social and political issues, and a broad participation of intergovernmental experts and policy decision makers;

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on how the United Nations system can deal with natural disaster reduction after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1999, taking into account the lessons learned and making early warning a key element for future natural disaster reduction strategies;

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

60/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I resolution 1, annex II.

53/186 International institutional arrangements related to environment and development*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 61/ adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

Recalling also its decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997 on progress in the implementation of conventions relating to sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, on ways and means of undertaking the

* Report A/53/609/Add.6, 15.12.1998

61/ Resolution S/19-2, annex.

* Report A/53/609/Add.6, 15.12.1998.

* See also page 64.

review of progress made in implementing conventions related to sustainable development, 62/

Emphasizing that policy decisions under the conventions are undertaken by their respective Conferences of the Parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

Noting that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of those conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

1. **Encourages** the Conferences of the Parties to, and the permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 63/ the Convention on Biological Diversity 64/ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa 65/ to examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and better scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, identifying actions undertaken to implement part IV.A, in particular paragraph 119, of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 66/ as well as the areas requiring further consideration and work, taking into account the roles of relevant organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, as stated in part IV of the Programme.

62/ A/53/477.63/A/AC.237/18 (Part II) /Add.1 and Corr. 1, annex I.

64/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

65/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

66/ Resolution S/19-2, annex.

53/187 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Also recalling the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 67/ and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122-124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 68/

Further recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session, 69/

* Report A/53/609/Add.6, 15.12.1998

67/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro. 3-14 June 1992. vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

68/ Resolution S/19-2, annex.

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session, 70/

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session and the decisions contained therein; 71/

2. **Recognizes**, in particular, Governing Council decision SS.V/2 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, 72/ including the areas of concentration of the activities of the Programme as proposed by the Executive Director in keeping with the spirit of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 131 as well as other priority areas of the Programme as established by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. **Welcomes** the adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, at Rotterdam on 10 September 1998, of the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and takes note of the fact that the functions of the secretariat of the Convention are jointly performed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme as an interim arrangement pending the final decision to be taken by the parties to the Convention on the location of the secretariat;

4. **Also welcomes** the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants which took place in Montreal, Canada, in June 1998, and further welcomes the positive role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental management of chemicals and especially the efforts undertaken by the Programme as the secretariat of the Convention on the negotiations on a convention on persistent organic pollutants;

5. **Emphasizes** that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority which sets the global environmental agenda, which promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and which serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

6. **Welcomes** Governing Council decision SS.V/6, 74/ as well as the decisions of the April 1998 meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility and the October 1998 Global Environment Facility Council meeting regarding the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Facility, and welcomes further the collaboration with the Facility on freshwater resources, as in the global international water assessment, and on activities aimed at combating land degradation as they relate to the focal areas of the Facility;

7. **Encourages** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue with the ongoing reform of the Programme;

69/ Official Records of the General Assembly. Fifty-second Session. Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

70/ Ibid., Fifty-third Session. Supplement No. 25 (A/53/25).

71/ Ibid., Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/53/25).

72/ Ibid., annex I, decision SS.V/2.

73/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session. Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

74/ Ibid., decision SS.V/6.

recognizes, as stated in the Nairobi Declaration, that, in order to operationalize its mandate, a revitalized Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources; and, in this regard, further recognizes the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the ability of the Programme to attract funding;

8. **Also encourages** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify his efforts to mobilize additional financial resources from other donors, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme in line with the Nairobi Declaration and subject to the agreement of the Governing Council.

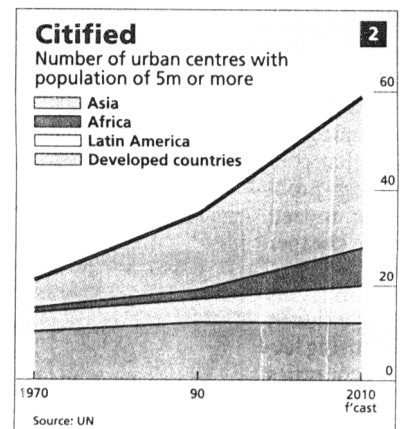
53/188 Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which was held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997,

Reaffirming that Agenda 21 75/ is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development, and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 76/ adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 includes a



Courtesy: The Economist

statement of commitment to Agenda 21 and the goals of sustainable development, an assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

* Report A/53/609/Add.1, 15.12.1998

75/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992. vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

76/ Resolution S/19-2, annex.

in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference, and recommendations on the future methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998 to 2002,

Recognizing also that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are needed in the pursuit of sustainable development, and that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continuing need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the fields of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased,

Noting with concern that during the assessment and review of progress made at its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly concluded that although some progress had been made, especially at the local level, the overall trends with respect to the global environment had not improved, and emphasizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner remains vitally important and is now more urgent than ever,

Noting also the convening of the first Assembly of the Global Environment Facility at New Delhi from 1 to 3 April 1998 and the conclusion of the second replenishment of the Facility,

Noting further that the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 is scheduled to be carried out by the General Assembly in 2002,

1. **Stresses** the need to accelerate the full implementation of Agenda 21 77/ and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; 78/

2. **Recognizes** that the Commission on Sustainable Development, within its mandate as specified in General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, will continue to provide the central forum for reviewing progress and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or as a result of it, for conducting a high-level policy debate aimed at consensus-building on sustainable development, for catalyzing action and long-term commitment on sustainable development at all levels and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21;

3. **Calls upon** the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to undertake these tasks in complementing and providing interlinkages to the work of other United Nations organs, organizations and bodies active in the field of sustainable development, to play its role in assessing the challenges of globalization as they relate to sustainable development and to perform its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and with related organizations and institutions, including making recommendations, within its mandate, to the Council, bearing in mind the interrelated outcomes of recent United Nations conferences;

4. **Emphasizes** that the achievement of more substantive results by the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002 will require concerted efforts at all levels, including by Governments, and calls upon all countries to fulfil their commitments to Agenda 21, and in this

77/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

78/ Resolution S/19-2, annex.

context calls upon developed countries to fulfil the commitments they have undertaken with respect to financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

5. **Underscores** the importance of the continued active and collaborative involvement of all relevant parts of the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with all relevant parts of the United Nations system and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration at future sessions, through the Economic and Social Council in view of its coordination function, an analytical report on the measures taken within the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including identification of constraints and recommendations on how to address those constraints;

6. **Stresses** the importance of high-quality preparations for the forthcoming ten-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth session a report on possible ways and means of ensuring effective preparations for the review;

7. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21".

53/189 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and 52/202 of 18 December 1997,

Reaffirming the outcome of its nineteenth special session, held from 23 to 28 June 1997, specifically the adoption of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 79/ and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development taken at its fifth 80/ and sixth 81/ sessions, held from 7 to 25 April 1997, and on 22 December 1997 and from 20 April to 1 May 1998, respectively,

Noting the importance of the decision taken at its nineteenth special session 82/ to convene a two-day special session, in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 83/

Reaffirming its decision to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the special session and in the preparatory meetings therefor, in the capacity of observers,

* Report A/53/609/Add. 3 15.12.1998

79/ Resolution S/19-2, annex.

80/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9 (E/1997/29).

81/ Ibid., 1998, Supplement No. 9 (E/1998/29).

82/ Resolution S/19-2, annex, para 7.

83/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.(94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Recognizing that small island developing States are vulnerable and face constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Noting that implementation of the Programme of Action has been carried out primarily at the national and regional levels, and commending efforts by small island developing States in this regard,

Noting also that the considerable efforts being made at the national and regional levels need to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General 84/ on plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States implemented, under implementation or envisaged for the period 1999-2003 by bilateral donors, United Nations organizations and regional and non-United Nations international organizations, and welcomes the action taken by small island developing States and the international donor community in implementing plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

2. **Also takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General 85/ on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, urges that the progress made in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States be continued and encourages all the relevant organizations engaged in the process of refining the vulnerability index to work collaboratively;

3. **Welcomes** the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, with respect to the donors' conference, a meeting to be held from 24 to 26 February 1999 between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and urges the parties concerned to facilitate project preparation and development;

4. **Encourages** all small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors to participate in the donors' conference as a means of pursuing the development objectives of small island developing States;

5. **Welcomes** the actions taken by Governments, regional commissions and organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in support of activities relating to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

6. **Urges** small island developing States to continue preparations for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly in September 1999 for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urges the international community, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to assist in this regard;

7. **Calls** for the participation of associate members of regional economic commissions in the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity of observer that held for their participation in the 1994 Global Conference;

84/ A/53/358.

85/ A/53/65-E/1998/5.

8. **Stresses** the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Global Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings, and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

9. **Also stresses** the importance of the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the special session and in the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the preparatory body for the special session, and invites Governments to make timely and voluntary contributions for that purpose to the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to assist small island developing States by applying the modalities for such assistance used for their participation in the Global Conference;

10. **Reiterates** the urgency of the international community's support of adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threat of sea-level rise experienced as a consequence of climate change;

11. **Welcomes** the activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility, and invites it, in accordance with the relevant decisions of its Council and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 86/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity, 87/ to support further the objectives of the Programme of Action;

12. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the existing mechanism, and to the General Assembly at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a report on the donors' conference;

13. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

14. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and the recommendations emanating from the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

86/ A/C.23/18 (Part II), Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.
87/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

53/99 Action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law*

The General Assembly.

Reaffirming once again the commitment of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the States parties to the Statute of the

International Court of Justice, to the goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law, as expressed by the General Assembly in resolutions under that item of its agenda, 13/

Mindful of the long and well-established tradition of progressive development and codification of international law, marked by the first and the second International Peace Conference, held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 respectively,

Recalling that the third International Peace Conference, scheduled to be held at The Hague in 1915, was not held because of the outbreak of the First World War the previous year,

Recalling also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold-war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century, referred to in General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, and the initiatives undertaken by the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with regard to the commemoration of the first International Peace Conference,

Noting with satisfaction that the realization of the programme of action dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, presented by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation, 14/ is consistent with the goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting in this respect that meetings of the Friends of 1999, held at The Hague in 1997 and in Moscow and New York in 1998, further contributed to the substantive content of the programme of action,

Noting also the preliminary reports on the themes of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

Expressing its gratitude to the rapporteurs and all organizations, groups and individuals who contributed to the discussion of the centennial themes,

Bearing in mind the progress report 15/ and the agenda 16/ of the commemorative meetings to be held at The Hague and St. Petersburg,

Noting that the outcome of action pertaining to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting also that the programme of action does not entail budgetary implications for the United Nations,

1. **Welcomes** the progress made in realization of the programme of action, 2 presented by the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation, which aims at contributing to the further development of the themes of the first and the second International Peace Conference and could be regarded as a third international peace conference;

2. **Encourages:**

(a) The Governments of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands to continue with the implementation of the programme of action;

(b) All States to participate in the activities set out in the programme of action, as well as to initiate such activities and to coordinate their efforts in this respect at the global level, as well as at the regional and national levels;

(c) All States to take appropriate measures to ensure universal participation in the activities pursuant to the programme of action, with spe-

13/ Notably resolutions 44/23, 51/157 and 52/153.

14/ A/C.6/52/3, annex.

15/ A/C.6/53/10, annex.

16/ A/C.6/53/11, annex.

cial consideration for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries;

3. **Encourages** the competent organs, subsidiary organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission and the Secretariat, within their respective competencies, as well as other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, groups and individuals, as appropriate: (a) To continue to contribute to the discussions on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference on the basis of the preliminary reports; (b) To consider participating in the activities envisaged in the programme of action and contributing to work towards meaningful conclusions of the debates on the themes of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

4. **Requests** the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation to prepare reports on the outcome of the centennial celebrations at The Hague and St. Petersburg for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, with a view to their consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to ensure consistency between the activities of the Organization relating to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law and those relating to the programme of action and to coordinate with the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation his efforts with regard to the closing of the Decade;

6. **Invites** the Secretary-General to consider any activities to promote the outcome of the United Nations Decade of International Law, including the possibility of the issuance by the United Nations of a set of jubilee postage stamps and postcards in commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

7. **Decides** to consider in the plenary meeting at its fifty-fourth session dedicated to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law the outcome of the actions dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the Decade;

8. **Decides also** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", a sub-item entitled "Outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference".

53/100 United Nations Decade of International Law*

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it declared the period 1990-1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of International Law in 1999, ➔

Recalling also that the main purposes of the Decade, according to its resolution 44/23, should be, inter alia:

(a) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;

(b) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;

(c) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification;

* Report A/53/630 8.12.1998

* Report A/53/630 8.12.1998

(d) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law,

Recalling further its resolution 51/157 of 16 December 1996, to which was annexed the programme for the activities for the final term (1997 1999) of the Decade, its resolution 51/158 of 16 December 1996, entitled "Electronic treaty database", and its resolution 52/153 of 15 December 1997,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General, 17/ and expressing its appreciation therefor,

Welcoming the significant steps taken by the Secretary-General to rationalize and expedite the registration and publication of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting the completion of the initial phase of the new electronic database for the United Nations Treaty Collection,

Recalling that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations of 21 March 1986 18/ is one of the conventions adopted under the aegis of the United Nations which have codified the law of treaties, and recalling also the impact of the Convention on the practice of treaties concluded between States and international organizations or between international organizations,

Noting that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 41/420 of 3 December 1986, the Secretary-General signed, on behalf of the United Nations, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations,

Recalling that, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee established the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade,

Noting that, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee reconvened the Working Group to continue its work in accordance with Assembly resolutions 52/153 and 52/155 of 15 December 1997 and all previous resolutions on the subject,

Having considered the oral report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Sixth Committee, 19/

1. **Expresses its appreciation** for the work done on the United Nations Decade of International Law at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, and requests the Working Group of the Sixth Committee to continue its work at the fifty-fourth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work;

2. **Expresses its appreciation** to States and international organizations and institutions that have undertaken activities, including sponsoring conferences on various subjects of international law, in implementation of the programme for the activities for the final term (1997 1999) of the Decade;

3. **Invites** all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to provide, update or supplement information on activities they have undertaken in implementation of the programme, as appropriate, to the Secretary-General for inclusion in the report requested in paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 51/157, which should also contain a list of major international conventions adopted un-

der the auspices of the United Nations during the Decade in the field of international law;

4. **Welcomes** the work done by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the field of the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the adoption of its optional rules of procedure for fact-finding commissions of inquiry, which entered into effect on 15 December 1997;

5. **Encourages** States to disseminate at the national level, as appropriate, information contained in the note by the Secretary-General; 5

6. **Authorizes** the Secretary-General to deposit, on behalf of the United Nations, an act of formal confirmation of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, as provided in article 83 of the Convention;

7. **Encourages** States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, 20/ international organizations that have signed the Convention to deposit an act of formal confirmation of the Convention and other international organizations entitled to do so to accede to it at an early date;

8. **Encourages** States parties and international organizations or agencies, including depositaries, in order to facilitate further implementation of the obligation laid down in Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, to provide, where available, a copy of the text of any treaty in disk or other electronic format and to consider providing, where available, translations in English or French or both, as may be needed, for the purpose of assisting with the timely publication of the United Nations Treaty Series;

9. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat for its efforts to facilitate access to information concerning United Nations activities in the field of international law, and to bring up to date the publication of the United Nations Juridical Yearbook, and encourages it to continue its efforts in this regard;

10. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Secretary-General for the progress achieved in establishing a new electronic database for the United Nations Treaty Collection, and encourages him to continue the development of this database with a view to expeditiously providing Member States with a greater range of easily accessible treaty-related information;

11. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to continue developing a policy of providing Internet access to the United Nations Treaty Series and the Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the needs of States, in particular developing countries in recovering the costs thereof, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this issue at its fifty-fourth session;

12. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance, including translation services, to implement the plan to eliminate the historical backlog in the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series within the next biennium;

13. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his note containing a list of the titles of the treaties appearing in the publication Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: 21/

14. **Requests** the Secretary-General to ensure that hard copies of the publications mentioned in paragraphs 11 and 12 continue to be distributed to permanent missions free of charge in accordance with their needs;

15. **Appeals** to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the field of international law and to the private sector to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme;

16. **Once again requests** the Secretary-General to bring the programme, as well as the note referred to in paragraph 12, to the attention of States and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law;

17. **Notes with appreciation** the activities undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the field of international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;

18. **Takes note with interest** of the events that will take place during the year 1999 22/ to commemorate the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

19. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law" and to convene a one-day plenary meeting on 17 November 1999 to mark the end of the Decade.

22/ See A/C.6/53/11, annex.

53/101 Principles and guidelines for international negotiations*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 23/ and of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, 24/

Taking into account the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Considering that international negotiations constitute a flexible and effective means for, among other things, the peaceful settlement of disputes among States and for the creation of new international norms of conduct,

Bearing in mind that in their negotiations States should be guided by the relevant principles and rules of international law,

Conscious of the existence of different means of peaceful settlement of disputes, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and recognized by international law, and reaffirming in this context the right of free choice of those means,

Bearing in mind also the important role that constructive and effective negotiations can play in attaining the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations by contributing to the management of international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the creation of new international norms of conduct of States,

Noting that the identification of principles and guidelines of relevance to international negotiations could contribute to enhancing the predictability of negotiating parties, reducing uncertainty and promoting an atmosphere of trust at negotiations,

Recognizing that the following could offer a general, non-exhaustive frame of reference for negotiations,

17/ A/53/492.

18/ A/CONF.129/15.

19/ See A/C.6/53/SR.32.

20/ A/CONF.129/15.

21/ A/53/525.

* Report A/53/630 8.12.1998

23/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

24/ Resolution 37/10, annex.

1 **Reaffirms** the following principles of international law which are of relevance to international negotiations:

- (a) Sovereign equality of all States, notwithstanding differences of an economic, social, political or other nature;
- (b) States have the duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) States have the duty to fulfil in good faith their obligations under international law;
- (d) States have the duty to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;
- (e) Any agreement is void if its conclusion has been procured by the threat or use of force in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;
- (f) States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in order to maintain international peace and security and to promote international economic stability and progress, the general welfare of nations and international cooperation free from discrimination based on such differences;
- (g) States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered;

2. **Affirms** the importance of conducting negotiations in accordance with international law in a manner compatible with and conducive to the achievement of the stated objective of negotiations and in line with the following guidelines:

- (a) Negotiations should be conducted in good faith;
- (b) States should take due account of the importance of engaging, in an appropriate manner, in international negotiations the States whose vital interests are directly affected by the matters in question;
- (c) The purpose and object of all negotiations must be fully compatible with the principles and norms of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;
- (d) States should adhere to the mutually agreed framework for conducting negotiations;
- (e) States should endeavour to maintain a constructive atmosphere during negotiations, and to refrain from any conduct which might undermine the negotiations and their progress;
- (f) States should facilitate the pursuit or conclusion of negotiations by remaining focused throughout on the main objectives of such negotiations;
- (g) States should use their best endeavours to continue to work towards a mutually acceptable and just solution in the event of an impasse in negotiations.

53/102

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session*

The General Assembly.

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session, 25/

Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development of international

law and its codification as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 26/

Emphasizing also the role of the International Law Commission in the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission further to enhance their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Stressing the usefulness of structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report,

Wishing to enhance further the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the International Law Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two organs,

Noting the holding of a split session of the International Law Commission in 1998,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session, 27/ and expresses its appreciation to the Commission for the work accomplished at that session, in particular the completion of the first reading of the draft articles on the prevention part of the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law";

2. **Draws the attention** of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report, and invites them to submit comments and observations in writing by 1 January 2000 on the draft articles on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law (prevention of transboundary damage from hazardous activities);

3. **Recommends** that, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether in writing or expressed orally in debates in the General Assembly, the International Law Commission should continue its work on the topics in its current programme;

4. **Welcomes** the valuable work done by the Commission on the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law", and requests the Commission, while continuing its work on prevention, to examine other issues arising out of the topic, taking into account comments made by Governments, either in writing or in the Sixth Committee, and to submit its recommendations on the future work to be done on these issues to the Sixth Committee;

5. **Invites** Governments to submit the most relevant national legislation, decisions of domestic courts and State practice relevant to diplomatic protection in order to assist the International Law Commission in its future work on the topic "Diplomatic protection";

6. **Takes note** of the consideration by the International Law Commission of its long-term programme of work and encourages the Commission to proceed with the selection of new topics for its next quinquennium;

7. **Welcomes** with appreciation the steps taken by the International Law Commission in relation to its internal matters, as contained in paragraphs 543 and 544 of its report, 28/ and encourages it to continue enhancing its efficiency and productivity, taking into consideration the discussion held by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

8. **Endorses** the decision by the International Law Commission on the duration of its session in 1999, as presented in paragraph 562 of its report; 29/

9. **Takes note** of paragraphs 562 and 563 of the report of the International Law Commission 30/ regarding the holding of split sessions as of 2000, requests the Commission to examine the advantages and disadvantages of such split sessions, and decides to return to this matter at its fifty-fourth session;

10. **Stresses** the desirability of enhancing dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee and, in this context, requests the Commission to submit any recommendations to that effect;

11. **Requests** the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, those specific issues, if any, on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

12. **Also requests** the International Law Commission to continue the implementation of article 16, paragraph (e), and article 26, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation, and invites the Commission to provide the Sixth Committee at the fifty-fourth session with updated information in this regard;

13. **Notes** that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

14. **Reaffirms** its previous decisions concerning the role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and those concerning the summary records and other documentation of the International Law Commission;

15. **Takes note** of the inclusion of information about the work of the International Law Commission in its Web site; 31/

16. **Once again expresses the wish** that seminars will continue to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants from developing countries will be given the opportunity to attend those seminars, appeals to States that can do so to make the voluntary con-

* Report A/53/63 8.12.1998

25/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 10 and corrigendum (A/53/10 and Corr.1).

26/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

27/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 10 and corrigendum (A/53/10 and Corr.1).

28/ Ibid.

29/ Ibid.

30/ Ibid.

31/ The Internet address is as follows: <http://www.un.org/law/ilc/index.htm>.

tributions that are urgently needed for the holding of the seminars, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the seminars with adequate services, including interpretation, as required;

17. **Requests** the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

18. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the fiftieth anniversary of the International Law Commission, which was fittingly commemorated by a seminar held at Geneva on 21 and 22 April 1998 and by other events;

19. **Recommends** that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly commence on 25 October 1999.

53/45 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996 and 52/56 of 10 December 1997,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space,

Concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 11 on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 3/

Noting with satisfaction that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), will be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space open to all States Members of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first session, 4/

1. **Endorses** the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first session; 5/

2. **Invites** States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space 6/ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. **Notes** that, at its thirty-seventh session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working group, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56; 7/

4. **Endorses** the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Continue its consideration of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space; 8/

(b) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(c) Continue its review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space and establish a working group to consider the item;

(d) Continue its consideration of other matters, including informal consultations on specific proposals already made for possible new agenda items for the Legal Subcommittee;

5. **Also endorses** the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions, should suspend consideration in its working group of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening its working group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its session in 2000 to warrant the reconvening of the working group;

6. **Notes** that, in the context of paragraph 4 (c) above, the Legal Subcommittee would implement the work plan that it adopted at its thirty-sixth session; 9/

7. **Endorses** the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/53/20).

5/ Ibid.

6/ Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

7/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/53/20), sect. II.D.

8/ See resolution 47/68.

9/ See A/AC.105/674, annex II.B.

8. **Notes with satisfaction** that, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Committee, at its forty-first session, reviewed further its requirements for unedited verbatim transcripts and agreed to continue the use of those transcripts;

9. **Takes note** of the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56;

10. **Notes** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-fifth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56; 10/

11. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued to consider on a priority basis the agenda item on space debris and that the work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session concentrated on the topic of space debris mitigation measures, on the basis of the multi-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session; 11/

12. **Notes** that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, during its consideration of the item on space debris at its thirty-sixth session, will concentrate on finalizing the full technical report on space debris for adoption;

13. **Endorses** the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should consider the following priority items:

(a) Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III;

(b) Space debris;

(c) The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

14. **Also endorses** the recommendation of the Committee that in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session and the preparatory work to be conducted for UNISPACE III, the Subcommittee should suspend, as an exception, its consideration of the following items for one year, to be resumed at its thirty-seventh session:

(a) General exchange of views;

(b) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries;

(c) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(d) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(e) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(f) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

10/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/53/20), sect. II.C.

11/ A/AC.105/605, para.83.

* Report A/53/596 3.12.1998

2/ A/53/265.

3/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 and corrigenda (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

(g) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the International Geosphere-Biosphere (Global Change) Programme;

(h) Matters relating to planetary exploration;

(i) Matters relating to astronomy;

(j) The theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session of the Subcommittee, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme;

15. **Notes** that the theme for the special attention of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session will be identified by the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session;

16. **Endorses** the four-year work plan for consideration of the agenda item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session, and agrees that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at its thirty-seventh session to conduct its work in accordance with the work plan;

17. **Notes** that the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee concluded its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Conference, and takes note of the conclusions of the Working Group of the Whole, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in the report of the Working Group of the Whole; 12/

18. **Notes with satisfaction** that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Working Group of the Whole assisted the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III in its preparatory work for the Conference, and agrees that the Advisory Committee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole at its 1999 session to finalize its preparatory work;

19. **Endorses** the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1999, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications; 13/

20. **Notes with satisfaction** that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued its education programme in 1998 and that significant progress has been achieved in establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions;

21. **Notes** that, pursuant to the request in paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 51/123, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at their 1998 sessions, carried out the tasks entrusted to them in their roles as the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee, respectively, for UNISPACE III;

22. **Endorses** the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session, concerning, in particular, the structure of the draft report and the provisional rules of procedure of UNISPACE III, as contained in its report, 14/ and requests the Preparatory and Advisory Committees and the executive secretariat to

carry out their tasks in accordance with those recommendations;

23. **Notes with satisfaction** the holding of the preparatory regional conference at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 May 1998 and its recommendations, the preparatory regional conference at Concepcion, Chile, from 12 to 16 October 1998 and the Concepcion Declaration of 16 October 1998 and the preparatory regional conference at Rabat from 26 to 30 October 1998, and notes with satisfaction that a preparatory regional conference will be held in Romania from 25 to 29 January 1999;

24. **Encourages** all Member States, organizations within the United Nations system and other international organizations with space activities, as well as space-related industries and national organizations, invited through their Governments, to contribute actively to achieving the objectives of UNISPACE III;

25. **Invites** Member States, space agencies and space-related international and national organizations to support the preparations for UNISPACE III by providing the executive secretariat with junior or senior experts, by co-sponsoring activities related to UNISPACE III and by providing other voluntary contributions;

26. **Notes with satisfaction** that in order to service UNISPACE III, to the extent feasible, within existing resources, the savings realized by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1998 and 1999 in conference-servicing resources by shortening, as an exception, their regular annual sessions, will be utilized to service UNISPACE III;

27. **Agrees** that pre-Conference consultations by all States Members of the United Nations should be convened on 18 July 1999 at the site of UNISPACE III, within existing resources, and requests the Preparatory Committee to report during the consultations on the work it has conducted;

28. **Requests** UNISPACE III to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

29. **Agrees** that in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Committee; at its forty-second session and the preparatory work to be conducted for UNISPACE III, the Committee should suspend its work on the following items for one year, to be resumed at its forty-third session;

(a) Consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

(b) Consideration of the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology review of current status";

30. **Recommends** that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

31. **Considers** that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

15/ A/C.4/53/8, annex.

32. **Urges** all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

33. **Emphasizes** the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, particularly in the developing countries;

34. **Requests** the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

35. **Requests** the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

53/155 Right to development*

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development,

Emphasizing that the promotion, protection and realization of the right to development are an integral part of the promotion and protection of all human rights at the national and international levels,

Noting that the human person is the central subject of development and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant in and beneficiary of development,

Stressing the importance of creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development at the national and international levels,

Further recalling that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues must be ensured,

Expressing its concern that, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 378/ the unacceptable situation of absolute poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness remains the lot of over one billion people,

Reaffirming the commitment contained in the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Mindful that the Commission on Human Rights continues to consider this matter and, by its resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998, 379/ established a follow-up mechanism, initially for a period of three years, ➤

12/ A/AC.105/697, annex II.

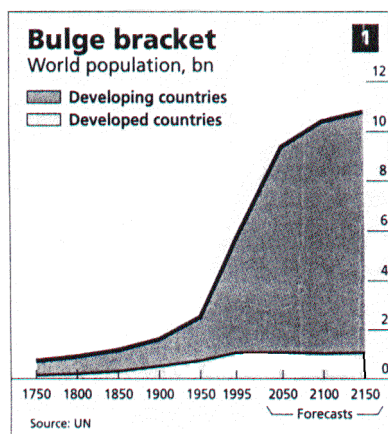
13/ See A/AC.105/693 and Corr.1, sect. 1.

14/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/53/20), sect. II.B.

* Report A/53/625/Add.2, 9.12.1998

378/ Resolution 217 A (III).

379/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.



Courtesy: The Economist

Noting the need for coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system for the more effective promotion and realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has an important role to play in the promotion, protection and realization of the right to development, including through enhanced cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose.

Reaffirming that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development 380/ requires effective development policies and support at the international level through the effective contribution of States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations active in this field,

Emphasizing that full respect for all human rights and the fundamental freedoms is necessary for lasting progress towards the realization of the right to development,

Reaffirming the need for action by all States at the national and international levels for the realization of all human rights and the need for relevant evaluation mechanisms to ensure the promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Expressing its concern that, more than ten years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and while noting that new challenges and opportunities for development have emerged in an increasingly globalized world, obstacles to the realization of the right to development still persist at both the national and the international levels, that new obstacles to the rights stated therein have emerged and that the progress made in removing these obstacles remains precarious,

Also expressing its concern that the Declaration on the Right to Development is insufficiently disseminated and should be taken into account, as appropriate, in bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes, national development strategies, and policies and activities of international organizations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the right to development, 381/ prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/136 of 12 December 1997,

380/ Resolution 41/128, annex.
381/ A/53/268.

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General; 382/
2. **Reaffirms** the importance of the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, 383/ and reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 384/ for every human person and for all peoples in all countries, in particular the developing countries, as an integral part of fundamental human rights, as well as the potential contribution its realization could make to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
3. **Recognizes** that the Declaration on the Right to Development constitutes an integral link between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 385/ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, through its elaboration of a holistic vision integrating economic, social and cultural rights with civil and political rights;
4. **Reiterates** the importance of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirms the right to development, as established by the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and also reaffirms that the human person is the central subject of development;
5. **Reaffirms** that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and in this context affirms that:
 - (a) Development experiences of countries reflect differences with regard to both progress and setbacks, and that the development spectrum has a wide range, not only between countries but also within countries;
 - (b) A number of developing countries have experienced rapid economic growth and remain dynamic partners in the international community;
 - (c) At the same time, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unac-

382/ Ibid.

383/ Resolution 41/128, annex.

384/ A/CONF. 157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

385/ Resolution 217 A (III).

ceptably wide and developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and may risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

(d) Democracy, which is spreading everywhere, has raised development expectations everywhere, that their non-fulfilment risks the rekindling of non-democratic forces and that structural reforms which do not take social realities into account could destabilize the processes of democratization;

(e) Effective popular participation is an essential component of successful and lasting development;

(f) Democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social- and people-centred sustainable development;

(g) The participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process needs to be broadened and strengthened;

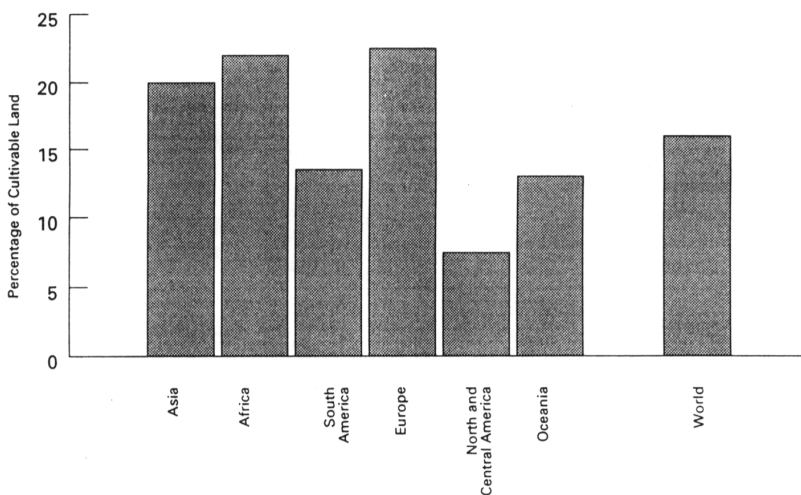
6. **Reaffirms** also that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms would be strengthened by enhanced international cooperation, in particular, for development;

7. **Urges** all States to eliminate all obstacles to development at all levels by pursuing the promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and by implementing comprehensive development programmes at the national level, integrating these rights into development activities and by promoting effective international cooperation;

8. **Reiterates** that the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

9. **Invites** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within her mandate, to give due regard to the impact of the problem of the external debt burden of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Human-Induced Land Degradation Worldwide: Percentage of Cultivable Land Lost Since 1945



Source: Worldwatch Institute.

Courtesy: The Economist

on the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries;

10. **Expresses deep concern** about the overall decline in official development assistance flows, and calls upon the developed countries, in a spirit of partnership, to mobilize further resources for development assistance to support States' efforts towards the realization of the right to development with a view to fulfilling as soon as possible the commitments undertaken to meet the agreed United Nations targets;

11. **Affirms** the need to apply a gender perspective in the implementation of the right to development, inter alia, by ensuring that women play an active role in the development process, and emphasizes that the empowerment of women and their full participation on a basis of equality in all spheres of society is fundamental for development;

12. **Expresses** concern about the adverse impact of the current financial crisis on the realization of the right to development and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in affected countries, especially on the right to food, health, education and work;

13. **Affirms** that international cooperation is acknowledged more than ever as a necessity deriving from recognized mutual interest, and therefore that such cooperation should be strengthened in order to support the efforts of developing countries to solve their social and economic problems and to fulfil their obligations to promote and protect all human rights;

14. **Welcomes** the intention of the Secretary-General to give high priority to the right to development, and urges all States to promote further the right to development as a vital element in a balanced human rights programme;

15. **Also welcomes** the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights towards the promotion and realization of the right to development, and invites her to explore further ways and means to achieve this objective;

16. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly of the activities of the organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, as well as obstacles identified by them to the realization of the right to development;

17. **Welcomes** the establishment of a follow-up mechanism, initially for a three-year period, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72, consisting of an open-ended working group of the Commission and an independent expert, in order to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development;

18. **Calls** upon the Commission on Human Rights to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including comprehensive and effective measures to eliminate obstacles to its implementation;

19. **Recognizes** that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides an important opportunity to place all human rights and, in this context, the right to development in particular at the top of the global agenda;

20. **Calls** upon the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as appropriate:

(a) To examine ways and means to provide the Declaration on the Right to Development with a profile commensurate with its importance;

(b) To continue to accord priority to the right to development and provide commensurate support in terms of staff, services and resources for its programmatic follow-up;

(c) To ensure widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development, in close cooperation with States and intergovernmental organizations, national institutions, academia and interested non-governmental organizations worldwide, through freely available booklets and publications, in a similar way to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, workshops and seminars;

(d) To project the role and importance of the right to development as part of the overall promotion and protection of human rights;

(e) To consult regularly on a formal and informal basis with all States on the follow-up to the Declaration on the Right to Development;

(f) To continue the welcome initiative to organize regional seminars which should focus on all aspects of the realization of the right to development;

(g) To undertake a dialogue with the World Bank with regard to the right to development, including initiatives, policies, programmes and activities that can promote the right to development, and to inform Member States on a regular basis of the progress made in such a dialogue;

(h) To involve relevant entities of the United Nations, such as those participating in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, to promote and advocate the right to development and its realization, especially at the international level;

21. **Requests** the Commission on Human Rights: (a) To invite the independent expert appointed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to include in his study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development; proposals for measures that could be taken for the more effective realization of the right to development at the national and international levels, and to submit his studies to the General Assembly;

(b) To invite the follow-up mechanism, inter alia, to consider the question of elaborating a convention on the right to development;

22. **Encourages** all States to address, within the declarations and programmes of action adopted by the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations, elements for the promotion and protection of the right to development;

23. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

24. **Decides** to consider this question at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches to improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

53/142

Strengthening of the rule of law*

The General Assembly.

Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 292/ fifty years ago, Member States pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Firmly convinced that the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights, as stressed in the Declaration, and

should continue to attract the attention of the international community,

Convinced that, through their own national legal and judicial systems, States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Recognizing the importance of the role that can be played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly entrusted the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with, inter alia, providing advisory services and technical and financial assistance in the field of human rights, enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and coordinating human rights activities throughout the United Nations system,

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, that a comprehensive programme should be established within the United Nations with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures that have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law, 293/

Bearing in mind that the Office of the High Commissioner remains the focal point for coordinating system-wide attention to human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

Recalling its resolution 52/125 of 12 December 1997 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/48 of 11 April 1997, 294/1. **Welcomes** the report of the Secretary-General; 295/

2. **Takes note with appreciation** of the increasing number of Member States seeking assistance in strengthening and consolidating the rule of law;

3. **Praises** the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to accomplish its ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at its disposal;

4. **Expresses its deep concern** at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Office of the High Commissioner for the fulfilment of its tasks;

5. **Notes** that the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights does not have sufficient funds to provide any substantial financial assistance to national projects that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to those ends but are facing economic hardship;

6. **Welcomes** the deepening of the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing system-wide coordination of assistance in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and, in this context, takes note of the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the High Commissioner in providing technical assistance at the request of States in the promotion of the rule of law;

7. **Encourages** the High Commissioner to continue the dialogue with other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, taking

293/ See A/CONF. 157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 69.

294/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. 1997. Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

295/ A/53/309.

* Report A/53/625/Add.2, 9.12.1998

292/ Resolution 217 A (III).

into account the need to explore new synergies with a view to obtaining increased financial assistance for human rights and the rule of law;

8. **Also encourages** the High Commissioner to continue to explore the possibility of further contact with and support of financial institutions, acting within their mandates, with a view to obtaining the technical and financial means to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide assistance to national projects aiming at the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;

9. **Requests** the High Commissioner to continue to accord high priority to the technical cooperation activities undertaken by her Office with regard to the rule of law;

10. **Expresses** its appreciation to the efforts made by the High Commissioner to undertake an analysis of the technical cooperation provided by the United Nations in the field of human rights with the aim of formulating recommendations for inter-agency coordination, funding and allocation of responsibilities in order to improve efficiency and complementarity of action concerning, inter alia, assistance to States in strengthening the rule of law;

11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the results of the contacts established in accordance with the present resolution, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights.

53/190

Convention on Biological Diversity*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/201 of 18 December 1997 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the Convention,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 88/

Recalling further Agenda 21, 89/ particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 90/

Deeply concerned about the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Recognizing the contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the

decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, relating to intellectual property rights and the relationship of the Convention with other international agreements,

Noting the dialogue taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention, and satisfied that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Colombia to host the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place at Cartagena de Indias from 15 to 19 February and on 22 and 23 February 1999, respectively,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the result of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Noting the importance of decision IV/6, in particular paragraph 11 thereof, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,

1. **Welcomes** the results of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Bratislava from 4 to 16 May 1998; 91/

2. **Welcomes** the decision of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the adoption of the programmes of work and the thematic approach adopted to guide its work in the development of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosystems; 92/

3. **Calls upon** Governments, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties, to use science-based analysis, to study and monitor closely the evolution of new technologies to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which might have an impact on farmers and local communities;

4. **Recognizes** the importance of the adoption of a protocol on bio-safety at the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter;

5. **Welcomes** decision IV/15, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties stresses the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention and World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights;

6. **Reaffirms** paragraph 10 of decision IV/15, in which the Conference of the Parties emphasizes that further work is required to help develop a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on issues relating to technology transfer and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, including the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional

lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

7. **Recognizes** the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes, taking into account the need for financial resources to support the implementation activities, in particular those of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. **Encourages** those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

9. **Welcomes** decision IV/8, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a panel of experts to implement the terms outlined in the decision;

10. **Recognizes** the importance of national action to conserve biological diversity in many habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular article 8, and the need to mobilize national and international support for such national actions;

11. **Welcomes** the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting to include an item entitled "Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitat or species" in the agenda of its sixth meeting;

12. **Recognizes** the utility of information exchange, and encourages the development of biodiversity information networks at the national, regional and international levels;

13. **Invites** all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the programme of work;

14. **Calls upon** States parties to the Convention to urgently settle any arrears and pay their contribution in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies 93/ and the Convention secretariat;

15. **Invites** the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work of the Convention;

16. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

93/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992, articles 23.4 (g) and 25.

53/191

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 94/

Reiterating its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in

* Report A/53/69/Add.4, 15.12.1998

88/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environment Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

89/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro. 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

90/ A/53/451, annex.

91/ See A/53/451, annex.

92/ Decision IV/16.

* Report A/53/609/Add.5, 15.12.1998

94/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies 95/ envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

Noting with satisfaction that a great number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the interim secretariat in contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in promoting public awareness,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 96/ on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/198, submitted in accordance with paragraph 21 thereof, and noting in this context the statement made on 22 October 1998 to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by all actors in implementing the provisions of the Convention,

1. **Welcomes** the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

2. **Calls upon** all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. **Also calls upon** all countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

4. **Notes** that the United Nations, the Convention secretariat and the Government of Germany signed a headquarters agreement on 18 August 1998, which will be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session for adoption, subject to ratification by the German Parliament;

5. **Invites** the host Government and the Convention secretariat to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat and its effective functioning at Bonn, and also invites the secretariat to continue its efforts with a view to finalizing the relocation as soon as possible;

6. **Notes with concern** that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998;

7. **Notes with appreciation** the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. **Urges** all States parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on or before 1 January of each year, starting in 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Con-

vention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, 97/ so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

9. **Notes with appreciation** the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some States parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions in support of the activities and functioning of the Global Mechanism;

10. **Calls upon** Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, to be established by 1 January 1999 in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties; 98/

11. **Also calls upon** developing country parties to the Convention to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of national action programmes, and calls for the implementation of those adopted through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of the contributions of non-governmental organizations;

12. **Calls upon** the international community, in particular developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the process of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

13. **Invites** the Conference of the Parties at its second session to facilitate and launch the process of elaborating and negotiating an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

14. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

15. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

97/ ICCD/COP(1)/1/Add. 1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, para. 14.

98/ ICCD/COP(1)/1/Add. 1, decision 2/COP.1, annex.

53/77 Part III Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly.

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153(XLVIII) of 1988 33/ and CM/Res.1225(L) of 1989, 34/ adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste,

adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session, 35/

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session, 36/ inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

Taking note of the commitment by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes, 37/

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 38/ inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling, resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, 39/ on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 51/45 J of 10 December 1996,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 40/ the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. **Takes note** of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons; 41/

2. **Expresses** grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. **Calls upon** all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. **Requests** the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. **Also requests** the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

6. **Takes note** of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako

35/ See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference. Thirty-fourth Regular Session. 17-21 September 1990 (GC(XXXIV)/RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

36/ Ibid. Thirty-eighth Regular Session. 19-23 September 1994 (GC(XXXVIII)/RES/DEC (1994)).

37/ A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

38/ The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

39/ See A/46/390, annex I.

40/ Resolution S-10/2.

41/ Official Records of the General Assembly. Fifty-third Session. Supplement No. 27 (A/53/27), chap. III.E.

95/ As defined in accordance with articles 22, paragraph (c), and 24 of the Convention.

96/ A/53/516.

33/ See A/43/398, annex I.

34/ See A/44/603, annex I.

Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. **Expresses** the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. **Welcomes** the adoption at Vienna on 5 September 1997 of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, and the signing of the Joint Convention by a number of States beginning on 29 September 1997, and appeals to all States to sign and subsequently ratify, accept or approve the Convention, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

9. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

53/76

Prevention of an arms race in outer space*

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 20/

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 21/ in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, 22/ and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1997 session to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992.23/

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. **Reaffirms** the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; 24/

2. **Reaffirms** its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. **Emphasizes** the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. **Calls upon** all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of out-

er space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. **Reiterates** that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. **Invites** the Conference on Disarmament to finalize the examination of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992, 25/ with a view to updating it as appropriate, thus providing for the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee during the 1999 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. **Recognizes**, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. **Urges** States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

25/ CD/1 125.

53/52

Oceans and the law of the sea*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 50/23 of 5 December 1995, 51/34 of 9 December 1996 and 52/26 of 26 November 1997 adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 109/ ("the Convention") on 16 November 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ("the Agreement"), 110/ provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

Emphasizing the universal character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Noting with satisfaction that oceans and seas will be the sectoral theme discussed at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in 1999,

Reaffirming the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17

* L35 and Add.1, 24.11.1998

109/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication. Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

110/ Resolution 48/263, annex.

* Report A/53/583, 4.12.1998. Recorded vote 165-0-4

20/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

21/ Resolution S-10/2.

22/ Official Records of the General Assembly. Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No.27 (A/49/27), sect. III. D (para 5 of the quoted text).

23/ CD/1 125.

24/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

of Agenda 21, 111/ as well as in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, in particular paragraph 36 thereof dealing with oceans and seas, 112/

Recalling that, by its resolution 49/131 of 19 December 1994, it proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and the Agreement,

Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in their implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

Taking note with concern of the financial situation of the International Seabed Authority and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the subregional and regional levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

Conscious also of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea,

Taking account of the importance of reliable hydrographic and nautical information to enhance the safety of navigation,

Expressing its concern at the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea and its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in this area,

Expressing its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in its effective implementation, including providing assistance in the functioning of the institutions created by the Convention,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and emphasizing the importance of the performance of such responsibilities for the effective and consistent implementation of the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 113/ and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs,

1. **Calls upon** all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement;

2. **Reaffirms** the unified character of the Convention;

3. **Calls upon** States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity;

4. **Encourages** States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General

charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 19 to 28 May 1999, during which, on 24 May 1999, the election of seven judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") will take place;

6. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Tribunal, established in accordance with Annex VI to the Convention as a new means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, delivered its first judgement on 4 December 1997;

7. **Encourages** States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of Annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained in accordance with Annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly;

9. **Notes with satisfaction** the progress in the work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority"), and emphasizes the importance of continued progress towards the adoption of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules;

10. **Notes with appreciation** the adoption of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Authority and the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationship between the United Nations and the Tribunal;

11. **Appeals** to all members of the Authority and all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal, respectively, in full and on time in order to ensure that they are able to carry out their functions as provided for in the Convention;

12. **Notes with satisfaction** the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") during its third 114/ and fourth 115/ sessions, held in May and August/September 1998, in adopting its rules of procedure and in adopting provisionally its scientific and technical guidelines aimed at assisting States to prepare their submissions regarding the outer limits of their continental shelf;

13. **Approves** the convening by the Secretary-General of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Commission in New York from 3 to 14 May and from 30 August to 3 September 1999, respectively;

14. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea and for the activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28 and 52/26;

15. **Requests** the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing advice and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

16. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted

to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/26, and to ensure that the performance of such activities is not adversely affected by savings as may be realized under the approved budget for the Organization;

17. **Notes with appreciation** the continued efforts of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to provide timely information on the oceans, marine affairs and the law of the sea through its Web site on the Internet; 116/

18. **Reaffirms** the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

19. **Invites** Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980, and to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs;

20. **Notes with interest** the ongoing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards a convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be elaborated is in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

21. **Invites** States to cooperate in carrying out hydrographic surveys and nautical services for the purpose of ensuring safe navigation as well as to ensure the greatest uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to coordinate their activities so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale;

22. **Urges** all States, in particular coastal States in affected regions, to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents wherever they occur and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law;

23. **Calls** upon States to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, including by submitting reports on incidents to that Organization;

24. **Takes note** of the work of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and of its report entitled *The Ocean ... Our Future*, and welcomes its issuance in the context of the International Year of the Ocean;

25. **Reaffirms** its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

26. **Reaffirms also** its decision, in resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, to consider the results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of oceans and seas in 1999, under its agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea";

27. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present reso-

111/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro. 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication. Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

112/ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

113/ A/53/456.

114/ CLCS/7.

115/ CLCS/9.

116/ www.un.org/Depts/los.

lution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to circulate the report sufficiently in advance of consideration by the General Assembly of the item concerning oceans and the law of the sea; 28. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

53/33 Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments*

The General Assembly.

Reaffirming its resolutions 52/29 of 26 November 1997, 51/36 of 9 December 1996, 49/118 and 49/116 of 19 December 1994 and 46/215 of 20 December 1991, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments, 117/

Emphasizing the useful role that report plays in bringing together information relating to the sustainable development of the world's marine living resources, provided by States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, regional and subregional fisheries organizations, and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with satisfaction that, while significant work remains, interested parties have made real progress towards sustainable fisheries management,

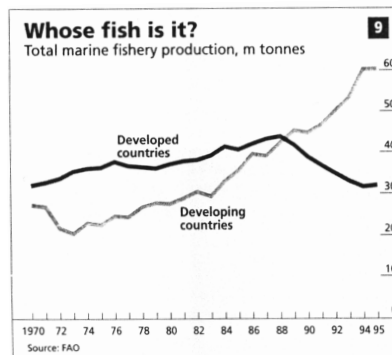
Welcoming the progress in organizing new regional organizations and arrangements in several heretofore unmanaged fisheries,

Noting that the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stated that 60–70 per cent of world fisheries are either fully exploited or overfished, and encouraging the current intergovernmental negotiating process going on at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to address the issue of fishing overcapacity,

Noting with concern the reports of continued loss of seabirds, particularly albatross, as a result of incidental mortality from longline fishing operations, and the loss of other marine species, including sharks and finfish species, as a result of incidental mortality,

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ensure the sustainable development and use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, consistent with the present resolution and with the duties of States to cooperate in the conservation and management of marine living resources, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 118/

Once again expressing concern at the impact of large-scale drift-net fishing on the marine living resources of the oceans and seas, and noting that there are continuing reports of



Courtesy: The Economist

activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215,

Concerned also to ensure that the implementation of resolution 46/215 in some parts of the world does not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift-nets which contravene the resolution,

Expressing concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in areas under national jurisdiction on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly developing States, and the continuing reports of unauthorized fishing activities, inconsistent with the terms of resolution 49/116, in zones of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, pursuant to a proposal made at the twenty-second session of the Committee on fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in March 1997, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations agreed to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action aiming at a reduction in the incidental catch of sea birds, to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action for the conservation and effective management of shark populations, and to hold a technical consultation on the management of fishing capacity to draft guidelines for the control and management of fishing capacities,

Noting with satisfaction that the Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and the Incidental Catch of Sea Birds, held from 26 to 30 October 1998, and its preparatory meeting, held in July 1998, produced draft plans of action or elements thereof for approval at the February 1999 meeting of the Committee on Fisheries,

Recognizing the importance of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks 119/ and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and noting that neither of these agreements has yet entered into force,

Noting that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices to conserve, manage and develop fisheries, including guidelines for fishing on the high seas and in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, and on fishing gear selectivity

119/ A/CONF. 164/37; see also A/50/550, annex 1.

and practices, with the aim of reducing by-catch and discards,

Recalling also that Agenda 21, 120/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, calls upon States to take effective action, consistent with international law, to deter reflagging of vessels by their nationals as a means of avoiding compliance with applicable conservation and management rules for fishing vessels on the high seas,

Noting with satisfaction that "Oceans and seas" will be the sectoral theme discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, in 1999,

1. **Reaffirms**, the importance it attaches to sustainable management and conservation of the marine living resources of the world's oceans and seas, and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on cooperation set out in part V and part VII, section 2, of the Convention regarding straddling stocks, highly migratory species, marine mammals, anadromous stocks, and marine living resources of the high seas;

2. **Reaffirms** the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118 and 52/29, and urges States and other entities to enforce fully such measures;

3. **Requests** all participants to work for the adoption of the outcomes of the technical consultation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held in Rome from 26 to 30 October 1998, and encourages all States to act responsibly, as appropriate, at national, regional and global levels to implement the action plans or the guidelines, in particular those for the management of fishing capacity, once adopted by the Committee on fisheries;

4. **Calls upon** States and other entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Agreement to consider doing so at the earliest possible time, and to consider applying it provisionally;

5. **Further calls upon** States and other entities referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas that have not submitted instruments of acceptance of the Agreement to consider doing so at the earliest possible time;

6. **Urges** all authorities of members of the international community that have not done so to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas, and to impose appropriate sanctions, consistent with their obligations under international law, against acts contrary to the terms of resolution 46/215;

7. **Calls upon** States that have not done so to take measures, including measures to deter reflagging to avoid compliance with applicable obligations, to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags do not fish in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly

120/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

* L.45 and Add.1, 24.11.1998
117/ A/53/473.

118/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

authorized by the authorities of the State concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and do not fish on the high seas in contravention of the applicable conservation and management rules;

8. **Urges** States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action, including through assistance to developing countries, to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

9. **Reiterates** its call on organizations with development assistance programmes to make it a high priority to support, including through financial and/or technical assistance, the efforts of developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations, including through financial and technical support for regional and subregional meetings for this purpose;

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

11. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated, that any duplication of activities and reporting is minimized, and that relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

12. **Further requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-

fifth session a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolution 52/29, the status and implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and efforts undertaken in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, referred to in paragraph 8 of resolution 52/29, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Oceans and law of the sea", a sub-item entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments". □