

Statement

by the Group of 77 and China (Nairobi Chapter)

On General Assembly Resolution 242*

1. The Group of 77 & China notes with satisfaction the adoption of Resolution A/53/242 by the General Assembly on the "Report of the Secretary General on Environment and Human Settlements".

The G-77 recognises that this Resolution covers major areas of reform and rejuvenation within the UN system, with particular emphasis on the roles of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat).

2. The Group believes that its contribution, following the publication of the original Task Force Report, has been constructive and substantive and has been duly taken into account in the final General Assembly Resolution.

3. The G-77 calls for an effective and speedy implementation of this Resolution, so that the reform process pertaining to UNEP and Habitat is quickly activated.

4. *Environmental Management Group*: Concerning this most pressing issue, that demands immediate action by the 54th Session of the General Assembly, the G-77 wishes to express that it welcomes the establishment of the Environmental Management Group for enhancing inter-agency co-ordination in the fields of environment and human settlements. The G-77 has noted the assertion by the Executive Director of UNEP that governments would soon be consulted on the modalities for the establishment of

* 28th July, 1999, on the Report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlements. UNEP/HLC/4/INF/4, 25 October 1999. See also page 208.

the EMG and calls for an early definition of such criteria, so that the terms of reference of the EMG could be approved at the 54th session of the GA.

The Group believes that the membership of the EMG from outside the UN system should be appropriately balanced in order to safeguard the interests of the developing world. The Group, therefore, calls for consultations between the Executive Director of UNEP and the G-77 (Nairobi Chapter) in the evolution of the criteria of membership of the EMG.

5. *Strengthening of UNON*: The G-77 is pleased to note that the contents of paras 2 and 3 of the Resolution, which call for the strengthening and more effective utilisation of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), would encourage greater efficiency and a larger resource base for it.

6. *UNEP-UNCHS co-operation and co-ordination*: The Group calls for an early, complete and programmatic implementation of para 4 of the Resolution.

7. *UNEP – Annual Ministerial Meetings*: The Group notes with satisfaction the proposal to institute an annual ministerial-level global environmental forum. The Group believes that an early decision on the agenda, venue and timing of the first meeting should be taken on the basis of pragmatic considerations.

8. *HLCOMO*: The Group further believes that the HLCOMO, though not mentioned in the said UNGA Resolution, has been rendered superfluous as a result of the decision to establish an

annual ministerial-level global environmental forum. Hence, appropriate measures need to be taken accordingly.

9. *Conventions*: The Group notes with satisfaction the proposals in paras 7 & 8 pertaining to enhancing linkages among Conventions and the constructive engagement of major environmental groups in the format clearly spelt out by the Resolution.

10. *Environmental Conflicts*: The Group also notes with satisfaction the re-affirmation of the principle in para 10 of the Resolution.

11. *Work Programmes*: The G-77 calls for a clear identification of priorities for the work programmes of UNEP and Habitat, so that the objectives of capacity-building and technical assistance of developing countries, set out in para 11 of the said Resolution, are quickly brought to the fore.

12. *GEF*: The Group also supports the enhancement of the role of UNEP as an implementing agency of GEF and the role of UNCHS in the implementation of the Habitat agenda.

13. Finally, the Nairobi Chapter of G-77 & China believes that an early and full implementation of the recommendations contained in the GA Resolution would bring about the strengthening of the UNEP and Habitat. Further, this input will be useful for the report to be presented on the implementation of the Resolution to the General Assembly at its 54th session. □