

Having considered the recommendations of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session⁴⁰ arising from the report of the Secretary-General⁴¹ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 3001 (XXVII) and from the report of the meeting of experts held at Vancouver, Canada, from 8 to 12 May 1973,⁴² as well as the comments of the Economic and Social Council thereon,⁴³

Stressing the urgent need for early and co-ordinated action by members of the international community to safeguard and improve the quality of life in human settlements in view of accelerating urbanization throughout the world, which is often accompanied by rural depopulation,

Bearing in mind the importance to the over-all objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade⁴⁴ of the improvement in the quality of life in human settlements in developing countries as an integral component in the process of development,

Welcoming the co-operative participation of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in the detailed planning for the Conference-Exposition,

Requesting that the Secretary-General take into account, in the preparations for the Conference-Exposition, the results and recommendations of other international conferences, including the World Population Conference to be held in 1974,

1. *Decides* that the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976;

2. *Endorses* in general the recommendations put forth by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the purposes, objectives and method of financing of the Conference-Exposition;

3. *Affirms* that the main purpose of the Conference-Exposition should be to serve as a practical means to exchange information about solutions to problems of human settlements against a broad background of environmental and other concerns which may lead to the formation of policies and actions by Governments and international organizations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assume the over-all responsibility for the Conference-Exposition, bearing in mind the views expressed during the debates of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session;

5. *Establishes* a Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements, to advise the Secretary-General, consisting of highly qualified representatives nominated by the Governments of the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy,

⁴⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/9025)*, annex I, decision 4 (I).

⁴¹ UNEP/GC/6 and Add.1.

⁴² For the report of the Executive Director on the meeting of experts, see UNEP/GC/L.2.

⁴³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003 and Corr.1)*, chap. XIII. See also E/AC.6/SR.666.

⁴⁴ Resolution 2626 (XXV).

Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to set up immediately a small conference secretariat, drawing upon the resources of the United Nations system, especially those of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and to appoint at an early date a Secretary-General who will report through the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and work in close co-operation with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the executive heads of the specialized agencies;

7. *Invites* the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the regional economic commissions to collaborate closely with the Secretary-General in the preparations for the Conference-Exposition and to assist, as appropriate, in the work of the Preparatory Committee, in order to be fully able to share in the results of the Conference-Exposition and in the action following therefrom;

8. *Urges* the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to lend every possible assistance in the preparations for the Conference-Exposition;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the regional economic commissions, in collaboration with the Preparatory Committee, to take the necessary steps, as part of the preparations for the Conference-Exposition, to bring to global attention the nature and relative importance of the problems of human settlements;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit brief progress reports, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions.

2199th plenary meeting
13 December 1973

3129 (XXVIII). Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming principles 21, 22 and 24 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,⁴⁵ held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972,

Recalling its resolutions 2995 (XXVII), 2996 (XXVII) and 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 relating to co-operation between States in the field of the environment, to international responsibility of States in regard to the environment and to the establishment of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, respectively,

⁴⁵ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14), chap. I.

Reaffirming the duty of the international community to adopt measures to protect and improve the environment, and particularly the need for continuous international collaboration to that end,

Convinced of the need to pursue, in the field of the environment, the elaboration of international norms conducive to the achievement of those purposes,

Taking note with satisfaction of the important Economic Declaration adopted by the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973,⁴⁶

Conscious of the importance and urgency of safeguarding the conservation and exploitation of the natural resources shared by two or more States, by means of an effective system of co-operation, as indicated in the above-mentioned Economic Declaration of Algiers,

1. *Considers* that it is necessary to ensure effective co-operation between countries through the establishment of adequate international standards for the conservation and harmonious exploitation of natural resources common to two or more States in the context of the normal relations existing between them;

2. *Considers further* that co-operation between countries sharing such natural resources and interested in their exploitation must be developed on the basis of a system of information and prior consultation within the framework of the normal relations existing between them;

3. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in keeping with its function of promoting international co-operation according to the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly, to take duly into account the preceding paragraphs and to report on measures adopted for their implementation;

4. *Urges* Member States, within the framework of their mutual relations, to take fully into account the provisions of the present resolution.

*2199th plenary meeting
13 December 1973*

3130 (XXVIII). Criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its first session,⁴⁷

Recalling its resolutions 1393 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 1508 (XV) of 12 December 1960, 1676 (XVI) of 18 December 1961, 1917 (XVIII) of 5 December 1963, 2036 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2598 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 and 2997 (XXVII), 2999 (XXVII), 3000 (XXVII), 3001 (XXVII) and 3002 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1170 (XLI) of 5 August 1966,

Mindful of the aims expressed in the Preamble and in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the employment of international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Considering the important role assigned to housing as part of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,⁴⁸

Further recalling that in its resolution 2718 (XXV) the General Assembly set out broad directions and measures essential for the improvement of human settlements,

Reaffirming in particular recommendations 1, 15, 16 and 17 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment⁴⁹ adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972,

Noting the high priority accorded to human settlements and human health, habitat and well-being by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session,

Noting the rapid deterioration of the world-wide human settlement situation and its effect on the quality of life of vast numbers of people,

Recognizing the need for international efforts to develop new and additional approaches to these problems, especially in the developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 2998 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General⁵⁰ shows no evidence of the identification or establishment of new criteria, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2998 (XXVII),

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake, as a matter of priority, the comprehensive analytical study envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2998 (XXVII), which would provide new criteria governing lending and interest rates for housing and human settlements by international institutions;

2. *Recommends* that any new criteria should also be applicable in principle to any institution or arrangement emanating from resolution 2999 (XXVII) or from any other action by the General Assembly regarding the financing of housing and human settlements;

3. *Requests* the collaboration and co-operation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme with the Secretary-General in undertaking the above-mentioned study;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*2199th plenary meeting
13 December 1973*

⁴⁸ Resolution 2626 (XXV).

⁴⁹ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14), chap. II.

⁵⁰ A/9163.

⁴⁶ A/9330 and Corr.1, p. 57.

⁴⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/9025)*.