

suffering of the civilian population of Angola, which is increasingly in need of help, causing an intolerable refugee problem and damaging the Angolan economy, and demands that the Union permanently cease such actions;

10. *Welcomes also* the steps taken by the Secretary-General to implement the emergency humanitarian assistance plan for Angola, and appeals to Member States to make generous contributions;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance and pledges made by Member States in support of the peace process in Mozambique, and encourages the donor community to provide appropriate and prompt assistance for the implementation of all aspects of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique;

12. *Reaffirms its appeal* to the international community to continue extending assistance to Namibia at this stage of its independence, to enable it to implement its national development programme;

13. *Invites* the donor community and other cooperating partners to participate at a high level in the Annual Consultative Conference of the Southern African Development Community, to be held at Gaborone from 26 to 28 January 1994;

14. *Commends* the Secretary-General and members of the international community for their timely response to the drought situation in southern Africa, which has averted famine in the region and has initiated a process that will ensure a rapid response to situations of a similar nature in the future, and in this regard encourages the international community to assist countries of the region in overcoming the effects of drought on a sustained basis;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
21 December 1993

48/174. Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,³⁴ in which the Governing Council, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalysing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of environment within the United Nations system,

Recalling further decisions 16/1 and 16/6, both of 31 May 1991, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environ-

ment Programme,³⁵ in the first of which the Council expressed its support for retaining at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi the programme activity centres already located there, decided that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, would be centred principally at Nairobi, and requested the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of providing on-site interpretation facilities and to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office at Nairobi, including external communication services,

Reaffirming paragraphs 38.21 and 38.23 of Agenda 21,⁷ in which it was stated that there would be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council, that, *inter alia*, the regional offices of the Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters at Nairobi and that its liaison and interaction with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank should be reinforced and intensified,

Reaffirming also paragraphs 25, 26 and 32(c) of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992,

Commending the United Nations Environment Programme for its leading role in the negotiation of many international conventions on the environment, its mobilization of global environmental awareness and its contribution in the area of capacity-building in regard to the preservation of the environment and its integration into sustainable development,

Mindful of the need to rationalize meetings related to the United Nations Environment Programme so as to ensure effective capacity utilization at the headquarters of the Programme,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its seventeenth session and the decisions contained therein;³⁶

2. *Stresses* the need for close cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21;

3. *Welcomes* the action-oriented approach of the Governing Council towards the implementation of the follow-up activities to the Conference, as outlined in its report;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Kenya for the grant of an additional forty acres of land for the expansion of office facilities and the improvement of the communications network, and encourages it to continue to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs, agencies and programmes based at Nairobi work in a conducive and hospitable environment;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to strengthen further the liaison function at Nairobi for the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on the basis of arrangements made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, duly taking into account all relevant provisions of paragraph 32(c) of General Assembly resolution 47/191;

6. *Urges* Member States to make their contributions to the Environment Fund in accordance with Governing Council decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993;³⁷

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that as many meetings related to the Programme as possible are held at the headquarters of the Programme so as to maximize utilization of conference facilities and services;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the programming of meetings related to the Programme is rationalized to facilitate economy and more effective capacity utilization at the headquarters of the Programme;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
21 December 1993

48/175. Drought and desertification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, in which it approved the report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification,³⁸ containing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,³⁹ and its subsequent resolutions on the subject,

Recalling also the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought", of Agenda 21,⁷ which develop and complete the decisions contained in the Plan of Action,

Concerned about the continued world-wide degradation of soil resources, particularly in Africa,

Bearing in mind that in the long term the problems of drought, desertification and degradation of the productive capacity of the soil have serious world-wide economic and social consequences that threaten the security and well-being of all affected countries,

Stressing the importance of the ongoing negotiations to elaborate an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Noting the active role played by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in combating drought and the important contribution of that Office to African countries in the ongoing process of negotiating an international convention to combat desertification,

Taking note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,⁴⁰ in which the Governing Council encouraged the Administrator to strengthen the substantive role and maintain the identity of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office as the focal point within the Programme for all matters related to drought and desertification control, in particular those in

Africa, in accordance with the ongoing process of integrating the Office into the core programme of the Programme,

Recalling the appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification, notably through support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office by the joint venture programme,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the medium-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region,⁴¹

1. *Welcomes* the support of the international community and urges it to continue its financial, technical and material support to the countries most affected by drought and desertification in order to support their effort to translate the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development into concrete activities to implement the programmes outlined in chapter 12 of Agenda 21, duly taking into account the provisions of the future international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa;

2. *Takes note with satisfaction* of decision 93/33 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Governing Council decided that the experience and technical expertise of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in drought and desertification control should be made available to all affected countries, in particular those in Africa;

3. *Recommends* that the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, ensured by the joint agreement to support the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in a manner consistent with the provisions of the future convention, be strengthened and enlarged in the context of implementing Agenda 21, but without prejudice to the particular attention that must be paid to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

4. *Appeals* to donor countries to contribute to the United Nations fund for the Sudano-Sahelian region to allow it to continue to bring effective assistance to African countries within the framework of the negotiation process for an international convention to combat desertification and to assist the affected countries in implementing chapter 12 of Agenda 21;

5. *Appeals urgently* to the members of the international community, particularly donor countries, to support the effort being exerted to combat drought and desertification on affected subregional levels, *inter alia*, within subregional intergovernmental organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Southern African Development Community and the Arab Maghreb Union, as well as within the programmes, funds and relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme;