

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

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,<sup>38</sup> containing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,<sup>39</sup> 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,<sup>7</sup> 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,<sup>40</sup> 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,<sup>41</sup>

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;

6. *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

**48/176. Human settlements**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

*Recalling also* its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

*Cognizant* of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international level for the implementation of the Strategy,

*Recognizing* the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the implementation of the Strategy and of the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21<sup>7</sup> and in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

*Noting with appreciation* that the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre, in line with the objectives and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, have succeeded in placing human settlements high on the agenda for national action and international cooperation and in promoting increased understanding of the links among people, settlements, environment and development,

*Noting with concern* that, in many developing countries, the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living conditions of their populations, in both urban and rural areas,

*Convinced* that proper planning, development and management of human settlements will lead to economic and social progress and thereby alleviate poverty and promote development that is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run, and aware that widespread civil conflicts and wars have left many cities and villages totally destroyed,

*Reaffirming* the importance of its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

*Recalling* its resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposal to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and

the views expressed by Member States regarding the question of separate senior management arrangements for the Centre,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session;<sup>42</sup>

2. *Also endorses* Commission resolutions 14/7 of 5 May 1993 on the strengthening of regional activities, 14/19 of 5 May 1993 on the role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the United Nations system and 14/20 of 5 May 1993 on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);<sup>43</sup>

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) are kept under distinct and separate management and direction, in accordance with their specific mandates and activities;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General -- in the context of ensuring high-level leadership of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through distinct and separate management and direction as contemplated in General Assembly resolution 32/162, taking into account relevant recommendations on the ongoing restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as it prepares for the challenges of human settlement development and management in the twenty-first century, as well as preparations for Habitat II -- to give full consideration to the views expressed by Member States regarding the leadership of the Centre;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, in the restructuring of the United Nations system, the Centre is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements and that its institutional capabilities are strengthened at its headquarters, maximizing the effectiveness of national and regional operations;

6. *Urges* all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute to and participate actively in adequate preparations for Habitat II;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

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**48/177. Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific**

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of resolution 49/2 of 29 April 1993 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,<sup>44</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, by which it proclaimed the period 1985-1994 the Transport and