

negotiating process, and invites the Office to continue to support the Governments concerned and to continue to mobilize resources for that purpose;

12. *Notes further* the constructive contribution of relevant non-governmental organizations to the success of the negotiating process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and taking into account procedures used in the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and encourages them, particularly non-governmental organizations from developing countries, to continue to contribute to the success of the negotiating process;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue to submit progress reports on the negotiations to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific and other institutions concerned;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", the sub-item entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa".

*86th plenary meeting
21 December 1993*

48/192. Strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989 and 46/217 of 20 December 1991 on international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency,

Reaffirming also the relevant provisions of Agenda 21⁷ and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹⁸ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including principle 2 of the Declaration, which states that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling decision 16/37 of 31 May 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies,³⁵ and taking note of Governing Council decision 17/26 of 21 May

1993 on the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance,³⁷

Taking note of the relevant parts of the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its thirty-fifth⁷⁵ and thirty-sixth⁷⁶ sessions in particular, in which the Committee noted the importance of remote sensing by satellites for monitoring the Earth's environment and, in particular, for studying and monitoring global change,

Taking into account the ongoing activities of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites in support of global environment monitoring and related applications,

Bearing in mind the importance of the participation of relevant organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in Earthwatch, in particular in its environmental monitoring programmes, and the need for early warning capabilities in those programmes,

Recognizing the need to make Earthwatch a more efficient instrument for environmental sensing and assessment of all elements influencing the global environment in order to ensure a balanced approach in serving, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

Recognizing also the potential and importance of current available methods, technologies and techniques for monitoring, assessment and anticipation of global environmental problems, including remote sensing and monitoring from outer space,

1. *Invites* Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other relevant entities to review, as appropriate, their contribution to international cooperation in environmental monitoring, including environmentally related remote sensing and data assessment, and to provide appropriate support for such activities within existing resources;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare and to submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighteenth session a report on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, containing proposals and recommendations within the context of Agenda 21 and a review of Earthwatch, taking into account the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session, in cooperation with relevant entities within the United Nations system and, where appropriate, outside the United Nations system;

3. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the above-mentioned report at its eighteenth session and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

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48/193. Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,⁷⁷ and in particular Agenda 21,⁷

chapter 17, section G, relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Reaffirming, in particular, the goals and objectives of the Global Conference identified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of resolution 47/189, and mindful of the important contribution that their successful accomplishment could make to the promotion of sustainable and environmentally sound development with respect to small island developing States,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community,

Also stressing the need for the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be completed before the Conference itself,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on its organizational and first sessions;⁷⁸

2. *Decides* to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994, including a high-level segment on 5 and 6 May;

3. *Urges once again* that representation at the Conference be at the highest possible level;

4. *Also decides* to convene one day of pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference on 24 April 1994;

5. *Further decides* that the first session of the Preparatory Committee shall be resumed in New York for a period of five working days, from 7 to 11 March 1994, to complete the preparatory work assigned to it in paragraph 11 of resolution 47/189, including the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States contained in annex III to the report of the Preparatory Committee, and that adequate facilities shall be made available for this purpose within the approved budget limit set for the biennium 1994-1995;

6. *Endorses* Preparatory Committee decisions 1⁷⁹ and 4⁸⁰ concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions and of non-governmental organizations, including major groups, in the Conference and its preparatory process;

7. *Also endorses* Preparatory Committee decisions 3⁸⁰ and 13,⁸¹ and decides to transmit the provisional rules of procedure and the provisional agenda to the Conference for adoption;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the Preparatory Committee, at its resumed session, of the report requested in decision 11 of the Preparatory Committee;⁸¹

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to ensure that the goals and purposes of the Conference receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, non-governmental organizations and national, regional and international media, with a view to encouraging their active contribution to and support for the Conference and its preparatory process;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, and invites all Member States and organizations in a position to do so to contribute generously to the fund;

11. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", the sub-item entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session the report of the Global Conference.

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48/194. United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 47/192 of 22 December 1992, concerning the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Conference),

Noting that the Conference held its organizational session in New York from 19 to 23 April 1993 and its second session, also in New York, from 12 to 30 July 1993,

Noting with appreciation that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has agreed to prepare two information papers, one on the precautionary approach and the other on the concept of maximum sustainable yield,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by the Conference during 1993,⁸²

Taking note of the recommendation of the Conference to the General Assembly, as set forth in the report of the Conference on its second session, regarding the convening of two further sessions in 1994,⁸³ required by the Conference in order to complete its work.