V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee

20. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, agencies, programmes and bodies within and outside the United Nations system, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

92nd plenary meeting
19 December 1994

49/112. Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the continuing deterioration of the global environment at all levels, due to the impact of constantly increasing human activity, remains a serious concern requiring further attention, including enhanced awareness and intensified action,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21,7

Taking note, in particular, of chapter 25 of Agenda 21 entitled “Children and youth in sustainable development”, chapter 36 entitled “Promoting education, public awareness and training”, and chapter 40 entitled “Information for decision-making”, which call for greater efforts to involve youth, promote public awareness and enhance the collection and exchange of environmental data in support of the pursuit of sustainable development,

Noting the recent entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change8 and the Convention on Biological Diversity,9 the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,10 and the recent successful conclusion of negotiations on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,11 which require for their effective implementation much greater and more effective collection and exchange of relevant environmental data,

Recalling its resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993 on strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems,

Convinced of the need to inspire the youth of the world with enthusiasm for the conservation, preservation and protection of all aspects of the global environment and in the pursuit of sustainable development, and to provide encouragement and support for their participation in that effort,

1. Welcomes the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme initiated by the Government of the United States of America on 22 April 1994, which aims to enhance the collective awareness of individuals throughout the world concerning the environment, increase scientific understanding of the Earth and help all students reach the highest standards in science and mathematics education;

2. Also welcomes the willingness expressed by many Governments to participate in shaping and carrying out the GLOBE initiative;

3. Encourages Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take part, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the GLOBE initiative, with full regard for sovereign national rights and interests and within the respective mandates of the organs, organizations and programmes concerned, including in the pursuit of sustainable development;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that appropriate account is taken of the GLOBE initiative in the efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in the coordinating functions of the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

5. Requests that the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, take full account of the GLOBE initiative, within the context of sustainable development, in reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21;

6. Invites Governments to communicate information to the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, on their participation in the GLOBE programme within the implementation of Agenda 21, especially with regard to its chapters 25, 36 and 40.

92nd plenary meeting
19 December 1994

49/113. Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development70 contains fundamental principles for the achievement of sustainable development, based on a new and equitable global partnership, and reaffirming Agenda 21,7

Conscious of the fact that dissemination of the principles contained in the Declaration will contribute to increasing public awareness of the need to take a balanced and integrated approach to development and environment questions,

Aware of the fact that dissemination of the principles contained in the Declaration can stimulate increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries,

Taking into account its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in particular its paragraph 4 (a), in which it recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development promote the incorporation of the principles of the Declaration in the implementation of Agenda 21, and recalling paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter 1 of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session,76

Recalling its resolution 48/190 of 21 December 1993 and noting that the ministers and other participants at the high-level meetings of the first and second sessions of the Commission emphasized the need to promote broad dissemination of the principles of the Declaration at all levels with a view to promoting public awareness regarding sustainable development,77

I. Urges all Governments to promote widespread dissemination at all levels of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;


2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Declaration is widely disseminated by the competent organs and bodies of the United Nations system and to continue to ensure that its principles are incorporated in their programmes and processes, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter 1 of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session.

92nd plenary meeting 19 December 1994

49/114. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

The General Assembly,

Considering the urgent need to preserve the ozone layer, which filters sunlight and prevents the adverse effects of ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface, thereby preserving life on the planet,

Highlighting the importance of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, concluded at Montreal on 16 September 1987, and its subsequent amendments, and the relevant role played by the Executive Committee of its Multilateral Fund,

Recognizing the strong commitment shown by signatory States and States parties to the Montreal Protocol, as well as by various concerned non-governmental organizations,

1. Proclaims 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date in 1987 on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed, to be observed beginning in 1995;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the successful observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer;

3. Invites all Member States to devote this special day to promotion, at the national level, of concrete activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the United Nations system can, without prejudice to ongoing activities, raise and make available the necessary resources, with a view to cooperating with Member States on the organization and promotion of various activities with respect to the observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

92nd plenary meeting 19 December 1994

49/115. Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of chapter 12 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Considering that the promotion of action to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, requires public awareness at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action by the international community is needed to combat desertification and drought, particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of such a convention,

Recognizing also the strong commitment of the international community to implementing the Convention and its regional implementation annexes,

1. Decides to proclaim 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, to be observed beginning in 1995;

2. Invites all States to devote the World Day to promoting public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organization of conferences, round-table meetings, seminars and expositions relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought and the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and its regional implementation annexes;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the Secretariat could assist Member States, upon their request, in organizing their national activities for the observance of the World Day;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the success of the observance by the United Nations of the World Day;

5. Invites all relevant United Nations bodies, within their mandates, and non-governmental organizations to promote World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

92nd plenary meeting 19 December 1994

49/116. Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Inviting all members of the international community, particularly those with fishing interests, to strengthen their cooperation in the conservation and management of living marine resources in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Recalling Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular its chapter 17, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the marine living resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in particular its chapter IV, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the coastal and marine resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

Noting that, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development the international community recognized that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, should be given special priority,

Expressing deep concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in zones under national jurisdiction, where the overwhelming proportion of the global fish catch is harvested, on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and