

Chapter VIII

Questions pertaining to the environment

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 5 to 16 June 1972. It was attended by representatives of 113 States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Conference adopted a Declaration setting forth principles for the preservation and enhance-

ment of the human environment, and an Action Plan for the Human Environment, consisting of recommendations for environmental action at the international level.

The report of the Conference was considered by the General Assembly at its 1972 session. On 15 December 1972, the General Assembly adopted 11 resolutions concerning various aspects of the

environment. The Assembly established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; an environment secretariat, headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; the Environment Fund; and the Environment Co-ordination Board. It decided to locate the environment secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Assembly designated 5 June of each year

as World Environment Day. It also took decisions on the following matters: co-operation between States, and the international responsibility of States, in environmental questions; measures to enhance and protect the environment; development and the environment; and questions pertaining to human settlements.

Details of these and other actions are described in the sections below.

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 5 to 16 June 1972, was convened pursuant to a General Assembly decision of 3 December 1968.¹ The Conference was attended by representatives of the following 113 States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, the Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Republic, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Viet-Nam, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

The USSR and most Eastern European States did not participate on the grounds that the criteria for invitations to the Conference, established by the General Assembly on 20 December 1971,² had prevented some countries, among them especially the German Democratic Republic, from participating in the work of the Conference with the same rights accorded to other States. This question was the subject of notes of 2 June 1972 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations, and of 5 June 1972 from the

Permanent Representative of Mongolia, addressed to the Secretary-General.

The Conference was also attended by representatives of various United Nations bodies, of the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and by observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations was present at the Conference and opened the proceedings.

The Conference established three main committees to study the six substantive items on its agenda. The First Committee was concerned with human settlements and non-economic aspects of environmental questions; the Second Committee, with natural resources management and development; and the Third Committee, with pollutants and organizational questions. The Conference also established a Working Group on the Declaration on the Human Environment.

The Conference elected Ingemund Bengtsson of Sweden as its President, and the representatives of the following 26 States as Vice-Présidents: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Guatemala, India, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Swaziland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

Keith Johnson of Jamaica was elected Rapporteur-General. The chairmen of the main committees and the Working Group on the Declaration were as follows: First Committee: Helena Benitez (the Philippines); Second Committee: J. Odero Jowi (Kenya); Third Committee: Carlos Calero Rodrigues (Brazil); arid Working Group: Taieb Slim (Tunisia).

¹ See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 476-77, text of resolution 2398(XXIII). See also Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 389-94; Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 449-52; and Y.U.N., 1971, pp. 307-13, for other Assembly decisions concerning the Conference.

² See Y.U.N., 1971, p. 313, text of resolution 2850(XXVI).

In opening the general debate, the Conference's Secretary-General stated that the Conference was launching a new liberation movement to free men from the threat of their thralldom to environmental perils of their own making. The movement could succeed only if there was a new commitment to liberation from the destructive forces of mass poverty, racial prejudice, economic injustice and the technologies of modern warfare. Man must dedicate himself to the ideal of a peaceful, habitable and just planet. The Secretary-General of the Conference also declared that while the concept of "no growth" could not be a viable policy for any society, it was necessary to rethink the traditional concepts of the basic purposes of growth.

Representatives of Member States, United Nations bodies and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the general debate. The Conference also heard an address by the Prime Minister of India.

Following the general debate, the Conference considered the reports of its main committees and its Working Group. On 16 June 1972, it adopted a Declaration and an Action Plan for the Human Environment. It also adopted various other resolutions (see below).

Preparations for the Conference

The fourth and final session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment took place in New York from 6 to 10 March 1972. In addition to reviewing arrangements for the Conference, the Preparatory Committee considered the international organizational implications of the recommendations for Conference action.

The Preparatory Committee had before it a draft preamble and principles of a declaration on the human environment, submitted by its inter-governmental working group. The Committee agreed to forward the draft declaration to the Conference, with the understanding that this did not imply any expression of approval or disapproval of the draft on the part of the Committee.

The documentation for the Conference was limited in volume and in number of documents. In addition to the draft declaration and framework for the action plan for the human environment, the Conference had before it a report on each of the six subject areas on its agenda, and a report on the United Nations system and the human environment.

In preparing the Conference documents, the United Nations Secretariat drew upon a large number of papers received from Governments, from members of the United Nations system, and from other sources, including inter-governmental

and non-governmental organizations. The documents included 86 national reports on environmental problems.

Actions taken by the Conference

Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

On 16 June 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment adopted a Declaration on the human environment consisting of a preamble and 26 principles.

By the preamble, the Conference proclaimed that the defence and improvement of the human environment—both natural and man-made—had become an imperative goal for mankind, to be pursued together with the fundamental goals of peace and of world-wide economic and social development. The achievement of this goal was the responsibility of citizens, communities, enterprises and institutions at every level. Although local and national governments would bear the greatest burden for large-scale environmental policy and action within their jurisdictions, international cooperation was also needed, both to raise resources to support the developing countries in carrying out their responsibilities in this field, and because a growing class of environmental problems were regional or global in extent.

By the preamble, the Conference also, among other things, affirmed that in the developing countries most environmental problems were caused by under-development, whereas in the industrialized countries they were generally related to industrialization and technological development. The Conference also declared that the natural growth of population continuously presented problems on the preservation of the environment and required the adoption, as appropriate, of adequate policies and measures.

The Conference then laid down the following 26 principles:

1. Man had the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permitted a life of dignity and well-being, and he bore a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. In this respect, policies promoting or perpetuating apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, colonial and other forms of oppression and foreign domination stood condemned and had to be eliminated.
2. The natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and, especially, representative samples of natural ecosystems, were to be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate.

3. The capacity of the earth to produce vital renewable resources was to be maintained and, wherever practicable, restored or improved.

4. Man had a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat which were now gravely imperilled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation, including wildlife, was therefore to receive importance in planning for economic development.

5. The non-renewable resources of the earth were to be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion and to ensure that benefits from such employment were shared by all mankind.

6. The discharge of toxic substances or of other substances and the release of heat, in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, had to be halted in order to ensure that serious or irreversible damage was not inflicted upon ecosystems. The just struggle of the peoples of all countries against pollution should be supported.

7. States were to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas by substances that were liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea.

8. Economic and social development was essential for ensuring a favourable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that were necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.

9. Environmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of under-development and natural disasters posed grave problems and could best be remedied by accelerated development through the transfer of substantial quantities of financial and technological assistance as a supplement to the domestic effort of the developing countries and such timely assistance as might be required.

10. For the developing countries, stability of prices and adequate earnings for primary commodities and raw material were essential to environmental management, since economic factors as well as ecological processes had to be taken into account.

11. The environmental policies of all States should enhance and not adversely affect the present or future development potential of developing countries, nor should they hamper the attainment of better living conditions for all, and appropriate steps should be taken by States and international organizations with a view to reaching agreement on meeting the possible national and international economic consequences resulting from the application of environmental measures.

12. Resources should be made available to preserve and improve the environment, taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and any costs which might emanate from their incorporating environmental safeguards into their development planning and the need for making available to them, upon their request, additional international technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

13. In order to achieve a more rational manage-

ment of resources and thus to improve the environment, States should adopt an integrated and co-ordinated approach to their development planning so as to ensure that development was compatible with the need to protect and improve the human environment for the benefit of their population.

14. Rational planning constituted an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the needs of development and the need to protect and improve the environment.

15. Planning was to be applied to human settlements and urbanization with a view to avoiding adverse effects on the environment and obtaining maximum social, economic and environmental benefits for all. In this respect, projects which were designed for colonialist and racist domination had to be abandoned.

16. Demographic policies which were without prejudice to basic human rights and which were deemed appropriate by Governments concerned should be applied in those regions where the rate of population growth or excessive population concentrations were likely to have adverse effects on the environment or development, or where low population density might prevent improvement of the human environment and impede development.

17. Appropriate national institutions were to be entrusted with the task of planning, managing or controlling the environmental resources of States, with the view to enhancing environmental quality.

18. Science and technology, as part of their contribution to economic and social development, were to be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems and for the common good of mankind.

19. Education in environmental matters, for the younger generation as well as adults, giving due consideration to the underprivileged, was essential in order to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in protecting and improving the environment in its full human dimension. It was also essential that mass media of communications avoid contributing to the deterioration of the environment, but, on the contrary, disseminate information of an educational nature, on the need to protect and improve the environment in order to enable man to develop in every respect.

20. Scientific research and development in the context of environmental problems, both national and multinational, were to be promoted in all countries, especially the developing countries. In this connexion, the free flow of up-to-date scientific information and transfer of experience was to be supported and assisted to facilitate the solution of environmental problems; environmental technologies should be made available to developing countries on terms which would encourage their wide dissemination without constituting an economic burden on the developing countries.

21. States had, 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 policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control did not cause damage to the environ-

ment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

22. States were to co-operate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

23. Without prejudice to such criteria as might be agreed upon by the international community, or to standards which would have to be determined nationally, it was essential in all cases to consider the systems of values prevailing in each country, and the extent of the applicability of standards which were valid for the most advanced countries but which might be inappropriate and of unwarranted social cost for the developing countries.

24. International matters concerning the protection and improvement of the environment should be handled in a co-operative spirit by all countries, big or small, on an equal footing. Co-operation through multilateral or bilateral arrangements or other appropriate means was essential to effectively control, prevent, reduce and eliminate adverse environmental effects resulting from activities conducted in all spheres, in such a way that due account was taken of the sovereignty and interests of all States.

25. States were to ensure that international organizations played a co-ordinated, efficient and dynamic role for the protection and improvement of the environment.

26. Man and his environment had to be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass destruction. States were to strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons.

The text of the Declaration was based on the draft submitted by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, as revised and amended by the Conference's Working Group on the Declaration and by the Conference in plenary.

One draft principle on which agreement could not be reached was referred to the General Assembly. The draft principle concerned the provision by States of information on activities or developments within their jurisdiction and control, when they believed, or had reason to believe, that such information was needed to avoid the risk of significant adverse effects on the environment in areas beyond their national jurisdiction. (For General Assembly action, see below, pp. 324-25.)

The Conference adopted the Declaration by acclamation, subject to observations and reservations made by a number of Governments. Among these were the following:

A number of States—including Canada, Chile, Egypt, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia—held that the Declaration, while not perfect, represented a first step in developing international environmental law.

Kenya, however, expressed concern at the emphasis the Conference had given to the physical, as opposed to social, environment of man; it regretted that no explicit reference had been made to the pollution of the minds of men, which resulted in policies such as apartheid. The Philippines also felt that the Declaration should have affirmed the primacy of human over physical factors.

China stated that the Declaration had failed to point out the main reason for the pollution of the environment—namely, the policy of plunder, aggression and war carried out by imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist countries, especially by the super-powers. China, therefore, did not agree with a number of views embodied in the Declaration.

Algeria declared that the environmental despoliation of colonialism was still going on. Although a considerable evolution of the concept of the environment had occurred during the Conference, the Declaration should have affirmed the need to end the misuse of natural resources by certain powers.

The United Kingdom considered that there were certain references to highly political matters in the Declaration which were out of place. The purpose of the Conference was to reach a consensus on priorities for action, not to discuss strategic issues, the United Kingdom held.

The following reservations or comments were made with regard to specific principles.

South Africa stated that the first principle—which called for the condemnation and elimination of policies promoting or perpetuating apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, and colonial and foreign domination—constituted interference by the Conference in the internal affairs of States.

With regard to the second principle, concerning the preservation of representative ecosystems, the United States said that in its view the phrase meant retention of a complete system, with all the complex inter-relationships intact. Uruguay also stressed it was necessary to preserve ecosystems as a whole.

A number of comments were made with regard to the final principle, concerning nuclear weapons. China maintained that the principle should have called for the prohibition and destruction of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Peru, the Philippines, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania also felt that the principle did not condemn the use of such weapons in strong enough terms.

Japan said that, in its interpretation, the wording of the principle definitely implied prohibition of nuclear weapon testing.

The United States said it fully supported the purpose behind the principle but that the international agreements referred to therein must be adequately verifiable.

Action Plan for the Human Environment

After considering the reports of its three main committees, the Conference adopted 109 recommendations for environmental action at the international level.

Included were 18 recommendations concerning the planning and management of human settlements. The Conference recommended that all development assistance agencies give high priority, within available resources, to requests from Governments for assistance in housing, transportation, water, sewerage and public health, transport and other essential community services. It called for the establishment of an international fund or financial institution to assist in strengthening national programmes relating to human settlements through the provision of seed capital and the extension of technical assistance. The Conference also recommended the establishment, through existing national and international organizations, of a world-wide natural disaster warning system, with special emphasis on tropical cyclones and earthquakes.

Various recommendations were adopted concerning the environmental aspects of natural resources management. Among other things, the Conference recommended an international programme to protect the world's genetic resources: crop plants, forestry species, domesticated animals, micro-organisms and wild plants and animals. The Conference called for a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling, and for international conventions and treaties to protect migratory animals and those inhabiting international waters.

Other recommendations concerned the identification and control of pollutants. The Conference proposed the establishment of a world-wide network of monitoring stations; the network should include not less than 100 stations to monitor the atmosphere on a regional basis, and approximately 10 stations, in areas remote from all sources of pollution, to monitor long-term trends in the atmosphere which might cause changes in meteorological properties, including climatic changes. Governments were called upon to minimize the release of toxic or other dangerous substances, especially persistent ones such as heavy metals (including mercury) and organochlorine compounds (including those found in DDT and other insecticides). The Conference also called for expanded co-operation on problems of radio-active waste and of marine pollution.

The Conference took several decisions con-

cerning educational, information, social and cultural aspects of environmental issues. Among other things, it recommended the establishment of an International Referral Service on environmental information, and an international programme in environmental education, directed mainly towards the average citizen.

Finally, the Conference made a number of recommendations concerning development and the environment. It recommended that Governments take the necessary steps to ensure that environmental concerns were not invoked as a pretext for discriminatory trade policies or reduced access to markets, and that the burdens of the environmental policies of the industrialized countries were not transferred, directly or indirectly, to the developing countries. Where environmental concerns led to restrictions on trade, appropriate measures for compensation should be worked out. Further, the Conference asked for steps to ensure that the flow of international aid to developing countries was not hampered during the Second United Nations Development Decade by environmental considerations related to Conference recommendations.

After their adoption, the 109 recommendations were arranged in a functional framework, which constituted the Action Plan for the Human Environment. The Action Plan consisted of three parts: (i) a global assessment programme, known as Earthwatch, to identify and measure environmental problems of international importance and to warn against impending crises; (ii) environmental management activities; and (iii) supporting measures, such as education and training, public information, and organizational and financing arrangements.

During the discussion of and voting on the recommendations in the plenary session, statements and reservations were made by a number of States.

The United States said it could not accept the recommendation that where environmental concerns led to restrictions on trade, appropriate measures for compensation should be worked out. The United States said it was opposed to compensating nations for declines in their export earnings, regardless of cause, but that it was prepared to consider the question in the context of its obligations under GATT. Moreover, in implementing its environmental policies, it intended to take practical steps to avoid creating new barriers to trade.

Several other States also felt that the provision concerning compensation was unworkable or unclear.

The United States and several other countries also expressed reservations concerning the recom-

mentation that the preoccupation of developed countries with environmental problems should not affect the flow of assistance to developing countries.

Canada, Japan, the United States and a number of Western European States opposed the recommendation calling for establishment of a separate financing institution for human settlements.

Japan expressed reservations concerning the recommendation for a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling; it felt that implementation of the recommendation should depend on available scientific information.

Other recommendations of the Conference

The Conference adopted a resolution on institutional and financial arrangements to provide the necessary framework for action to be taken in response to the recommendations included in its Action Plan for the Human Environment.

By the resolution, the Conference recommended that the General Assembly establish: (i) a governing council for environmental programmes, to promote international co-operation in the environment field and to provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system; (ii) a small secretariat, headed by an executive director, to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system; (iii) a voluntary environment fund, to be used to provide additional financing for environmental programmes; and

(iv) an environmental co-ordinating board, within the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to ensure co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes.

These recommendations were considered by the General Assembly later in the year, and, with minor modifications, were incorporated in General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII). (For text of resolution 2997(XXVII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES, pp. 331-33.)

The Conference also adopted a resolution condemning nuclear weapon tests. By this resolution, the Conference expressed the view that there was radioactive contamination of the environment from nuclear weapon tests, and the belief that all exposures of mankind to radiation should be kept to the minimum possible. The Conference then condemned such tests, especially those carried out in the atmosphere, and called upon those States intending to carry out these tests to abandon their plans. The resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 56 to 3, with 29 abstentions. China, France and Gabon voted against the text.

Finally, the Conference adopted resolutions recommending that the General Assembly designate 5 June of each year as World Environment Day, and that it decide to convene a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The General Assembly acted on these recommendations in adopting resolution 2994(XXVII). (For text of resolution 2994(XXVII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES, p. 330.)

Documentary references

A/CONF.48/PC/17. Report of Preparatory Committee for United Nations Conference on Human Environment on its 4th session, 6-10 March 1972. (Annex II: List of documents submitted to Preparatory Committee.)
Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human

Environment, Stockholm, Sweden, 5-16 June 1972.
U.N.P. Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14.
A/8688. Note verbale of 2 June 1972 from Hungary.
A/8691. Note verbale of 5 June 1972 from Mongolia.

Decisions of General Assembly on environment questions

The report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council, which took note of it by a decision of 17 October 1972, and to the General Assembly at its 1972 session.

On 15 December 1972, on the recommendation of its Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, the Assembly adopted 11 resolutions concerning the environment, described below.

International co-operation on environmental problems

Conference on the Human Environment

On 15 December 1972, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the report of the United

Nations Conference on the Human Environment and made certain decisions regarding follow-up action.

The Assembly drew the attention of Governments and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, established by Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) (see below), to the Declaration of the Conference, and referred the Action Plan for the Human Environment to the Governing Council for appropriate action. It also drew the attention of Governments to the recommendations for action at the national level, referred to them by the Conference for consideration and such action as they deemed appropriate.

The Assembly designated 5 June as World

Environment Day, and urged Governments and organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day each year activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment.

The question of convening a second Conference on the Human Environment was referred to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which was asked to report to the General Assembly so that the Assembly might take a decision on the question not later than its 1974 session.

The Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 2994(XXVII), by a vote of 112 to 0, with 10 abstentions. The text was approved by the Second Committee on 2 November 1972, by a vote of 103 to 0, with 12 abstentions. It was sponsored by the following 30 Members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Swaziland, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

Co-operation between States and International responsibility of States

In considering the draft declaration on the human environment, the Conference on the Human Environment was unable to reach agreement on one draft principle, which it decided to refer to the General Assembly for consideration. The draft principle concerned the provision by States of information on activities or developments within their jurisdiction and under their control when they believed, or had reason to believe, that such information was needed to avoid the risk of significant adverse effects on the environment in areas beyond their national jurisdiction. The principle was related in subject matter to principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration on the human environment as adopted.

(Principle 21 held that States had the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control did not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Principle 22 affirmed that States were to co-operate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities

within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction.)

The draft principle was discussed in the Assembly's Second Committee. Two proposals pertaining to the substance of the draft were put forward and were subsequently adopted by the Assembly as resolutions 2995(XXVII) and 2996(XXVII).

By resolution 2995(XXVII), on co-operation between States, the Assembly emphasized that, in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce significant harmful effects in zones situated outside their national jurisdiction. The Assembly recognized that international environmental co-operation, including that envisaged by principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, would be effectively achieved through the exchange of official and public knowledge of technical data relating to work carried out by States within their national jurisdiction, and that the exchange of such data would not be construed as enabling one State to interfere with the development of the natural resources of another.

Resolution 2995(XXVII) was adopted by a vote of 115 to 0, with 10 abstentions. The Second Committee approved the text on 2 November 1972, by a vote of 114 to 0, with 10 abstentions. The text was based on a proposal sponsored by the following 59 Members: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen and Yugoslavia. Amendments to the text put forward by Canada and New Zealand were withdrawn.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

By resolution 2996(XXVII), the Assembly declared that no resolution adopted at the 1972 session of the Assembly could affect principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment concerning the international responsibility of States in regard to the environment.

Resolution 2996(XXVII) was adopted by a recorded vote of 112 to 0, with 10 abstentions. It was approved by the Second Committee on

2 November 1972 by a vote of 111 to 0, with 11 abstentions. The text was based on a proposal by Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Panama.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

Institutional and financial arrangements for environmental co-operation

After considering the recommendations of the Conference on the Human Environment concerning institutional and financial arrangements for environmental co-operation, the General Assembly decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; an environment secretariat, headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; the Environment Fund; and the Environment Co-ordination Board. It also decided that the environment secretariat would be located in Nairobi, Kenya.

By section I of resolution 2997(XXVII)-a four-part resolution—the Assembly established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. The Governing Council was to be composed of 58 members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms, apportioned as follows: 16 seats for African States; 13, for Asian States; 6, for Eastern European States; 10, for Latin American States; and 13, for Western European and other States.

The main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council included the following:

- (i) to promote international co-operation in the field of the environment and to recommend policies to this end;
- (ii) to provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
- (iii) to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance received appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;
- (iv) to promote the contribution to environmental knowledge of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities;
- (v) to maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that might be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects were compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries.

The Governing Council was to report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which was to transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it deemed necessary, particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination and the relationship of United Nations environmental policies and programmes to over-all economic and social policies and priorities.

By section II of the resolution, the Assembly established a small secretariat in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management. The secretariat was to be headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to be elected by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of four years. The Executive Director's responsibilities were detailed by the Assembly.

The Assembly also decided that the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the environment secretariat should be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. Operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Environment Fund established under section III of the resolution (see below) were to be borne by the Fund.

By section III of the resolution, the Assembly established a voluntary Environment Fund, with effect from 1 January 1973, to provide additional financing for environmental programmes. The Fund was to be established in accordance with existing United Nations financial procedures, and the Governing Council was to formulate such general procedures as were necessary to govern its operations.

The Fund was intended to support the Governing Council in its policy guidance role for the direction and co-ordination of environmental activities and was to be directed to the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations. The Environment Fund was to finance, wholly or partly, the costs of new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system, including those envisaged in the Action Plan for the Human Environment. The initiatives were to be reviewed by the Governing Council, which was to make appropriate decisions as to their continued financing.

The Environment Fund was to finance such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting

systems; the improvement of environmental quality management; environmental research; information exchange and dissemination; public education and training; assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; the promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards; and such other programmes as the Governing Council might decide upon. In the implementation of these programmes, due account was to be taken of the special needs of the developing countries.

In order to ensure that the development priorities of developing countries were not adversely affected, the Assembly specified that adequate measures should be taken to provide additional financial resources on terms compatible with the economic situation of the recipient developing country. The Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations, was to keep this problem under continuing review.

The Assembly also established, by the fourth section of the resolution, an Environment Co-ordination Board, under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The Board was to provide for efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes and to ensure co-operation and co-ordination among all bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes.

The Assembly invited organizations of the United Nations system, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, as well as other appropriate inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts in the environment field and to co-operate in the new institutional machinery. It called upon Governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions were entrusted with the task of co-ordination of environmental action, both national and international.

Finally, the Assembly decided to review at its 1976 session, as appropriate, the above institutional arrangements, bearing in mind, among other things, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 2997(XXVII) was adopted by a vote of 116 to 0, with 10 abstentions. The Second Committee approved the text on 2 November 1972 by a vote of 115 to 0, with 9 abstentions. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Iran, Kenya, Jamaica, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the

United States were the sponsors of the draft text.

Prior to approving the 19-power text, the Second Committee approved, by a vote of 72 to 36, with 21 abstentions, an amendment which provided for a Governing Council of 58 Members (rather than 54) and indicated the apportionment of the seats under five geographical groups. The sponsors of the amendment were Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, the Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

Following adoption of resolution 2997(XXVII), the Assembly elected 58 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. On the nomination of the Secretary-General, it elected Maurice F. Strong (Canada) Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, for a term of four years from 1 January 1973.

In considering the administrative arrangements for environmental co-operation, the Second Committee also devoted attention to the question of the location of the environment secretariat. The Committee had before it a report by the Secretary-General informing it of offers by Governments to provide the site for the secretariat.

A draft resolution on the subject was introduced in the Committee by 37 members. The draft included preambular provisions noting that the headquarters of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were all located in developed States in North America and Western Europe and expressing the conviction that in order to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the activities and headquarters or secretariats of United Nations bodies and agencies should be located having regard to equitable geographical distribution. The operative paragraphs of the 37-power draft, in its revised form, would have the Assembly decide to locate the environment secretariat in a developing country, and further decide to locate it in Nairobi, Kenya.

Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Dahomey, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Re-

public, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia were sponsors of the text.

Amendments to the 37-power text which were put forward by Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden were later judged by the Committee Chairman to constitute a new draft resolution. By the three-power text, the Assembly would: (a) ask the Secretary-General to examine in depth the geographical distribution of United Nations bodies and to report to the Assembly in 1973 on the possibility of locating certain units in developing countries; (6) ask the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive survey of all proposed locations for the environment secretariat and report to the Assembly in 1973; and (c) decide to postpone a decision on the location of the environment secretariat until 1973. Introducing the proposal, the representative of the Netherlands said that the question of the geographical distribution of United Nations units was a highly complex one and should not be linked to the question of the location of the environment secretariat. Moreover, it would be unfair not to consider the other countries that had been suggested as possible sites.

Other amendments to the 37-power text were introduced by Tunisia and by the United Kingdom. The Tunisian amendments would have the Assembly decide to locate the environment secretariat or the secretariats of other United Nations bodies in developing countries, and decide to postpone a final decision on the location of the environment secretariat until 1973, while provisionally locating it at one of the sites offered.

The United Kingdom amendments would have the Assembly decide to consider whether the environment secretariat should be located in one of the developing country locations, or in one of the other locations listed in the Secretary-General's report, and to decide among those locations by ballot at its 1972 session.

Also, the representative of Spain made an oral proposal that Member States be given an opportunity to vote on all the offers made for the selection of a site for the environment secretariat.

Subsequently, the three-power draft and the Spanish proposal, as well as an amendment by Malta to the preamble of the 37-power text, were withdrawn. The Committee then rejected the Tunisian amendments by a recorded vote of 68 to 20, with 35 abstentions, and the United Kingdom amendments, by a recorded vote of 81 to 30, with 12 abstentions. It approved the operative paragraphs of the 37-power draft by a recorded vote of 93 to 1, with 30 abstentions, and the text as a whole (incorporating an amendment to the

preamble by Australia and the Philippines), by a recorded vote of 93 to 0, with 31 abstentions. The Committee took these actions on 10 November 1972.

The General Assembly adopted the text on 15 December 1972, as its resolution 3004(XXVII), by a vote of 128 to 0. The Assembly thereby decided to locate the environment secretariat in a developing country; and further decided to locate it in Nairobi.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

Measures to protect the environment

The importance of action at the national level for protecting and enhancing the environment was stressed by the Assembly in another resolution. The Assembly also called upon the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to explore at its first session ways and means of promoting effective regional environmental programmes.

The Assembly asked the Governing Council, in formulating environmental programmes, to ensure that they were compatible with (i) the policy measures and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade relating to science and technology; and (ii) policy measures and objectives to be recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development in considering the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development. A report on steps taken to meet this request was to be submitted in 1974 by the Governing Council and by the Committee on Review and Appraisal of the Development Strategy.

These Assembly decisions were set forth in resolution 3000(XXVII), adopted by a vote of 117 to 0, with 10 abstentions. The Second Committee approved the text on 3 November 1972, by a recorded vote of 103 to 0, with 13 abstentions. The sponsors of the draft were Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Republic, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

Development and environment

The General Assembly's concern with the relationship between development and environment was expressed in yet another resolution adopted on 15 December 1972.

By this, the Assembly called upon the Governing

Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in formulating its programmes and priorities, to give special consideration to those environmental measures and programmes that might also constitute a necessary part of the development process of developing countries. It asked the Governing Council to ensure the compatibility of environmental programmes with the objectives and policy measures of global strategies and sectoral guidelines for the economic development of developing countries, as defined by the United Nations.

The Economic and Social Council was asked to discharge its responsibilities with regard to the Governing Council in such a way as to enhance the attainment of the objectives of the International Development Strategy, and to ensure that the development priorities of the developing countries were in no way adversely affected or distorted.

The Assembly recommended respect for the principle that resources for environmental programmes, both within and outside the United Nations system, be additional to the present level and projected growth of resources to be made available, under the Strategy, for development assistance programmes.

The Secretary-General was asked to report to the Assembly in 1974 on the distribution and patterns of growth of resources and programmes in various fields within the United Nations system, in order to permit an evaluation of their conformity with the over-all policies and priorities of development as established by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

The Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 3002(XXVII), by a vote of 110 to 0, with 16 abstentions.

The Second Committee approved the text on 6 November 1972, by a vote of 85 to 0, with 21 abstentions. It approved by a vote of 74 to 3, with 26 abstentions the provision recommending respect for the principle that resources for environmental programmes be additional to the resources to be made available for programmes directly related to development assistance. The sponsors of the text were Brazil, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

Questions pertaining to human settlements

After considering the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the General Assembly adopted three

resolutions relating to environmental aspects of human settlements.

By one of these, the Assembly recommended that all development assistance agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, should give high priority to requests from Governments for assistance in housing and human settlements.

The Assembly further recommended that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: (a) provide funds in this sector on terms and conditions which fully reflected the unique nature and characteristics of housing and related investments; (b) take into account, in establishing criteria for eligibility for such loans, such socio-economic factors as levels of unemployment, rates of urban growth, population density and the general condition of housing stock in the developing countries; and (c), as a matter of priority, implement its stated policy of providing seed capital loans on favourable terms for the establishment of domestic financial institutions and organizations to mobilize and allocate capital for housing and related investments.

The Secretary-General was asked to report to the Assembly in 1973 on the implementation of these recommendations.

The Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 2998(XXVII), By a vote of 96 to 0, with 29 abstentions. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

The text was based on a proposal by Guyana, Kenya, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Upper Volta, as orally amended by Egypt and the sponsors. The Second Committee approved the text on 3 November 1972 by a roll-call vote of 81 to 0, with 34 abstentions.

At the request of Greece, the Committee voted separately on the phrase specifying that "all development assistance agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme" should give high priority to requests for assistance in housing and settlements. The Committee retained this phrase.

Before voting on the draft resolution, the Committee rejected, by a roll-call vote of 76 to 18, with 19 abstentions, a proposal by the United Kingdom that draft resolutions relating to particular points of the Action Plan for the Human Environment should be referred to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for consideration.

By another decision, the Assembly endorsed in principle the establishment of an international fund or financial institution whose purpose would

be: to provide seed capital and technical assistance to mobilize domestic resources for housing and the environmental improvement of human settlements, as envisaged in the Action Plan for the Human Environment. It asked the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the establishment and operation of such a fund or institution and to report on the question to the General Assembly in 1974, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council.

This decision was set forth in resolution 2999(XXVII), adopted by a vote of 93 to 5, with 27 abstentions.

The Second Committee approved the draft on 3 November 1972, by a recorded vote of 82 to 6, with 27 abstentions. The text was based on a proposal by Indonesia, Jamaica, the Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Yemen, as orally amended by Tunisia. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Referring to the desire to maintain the momentum of the Conference on the Human Environment in the area of human settlements, the General Assembly also decided to hold a Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements, to accept the offer of the Government of Canada to act as host to the Conference-Exposition in 1975, and to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its first session, a plan for the Conference-Exposition.

The Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 3001(XXVII), by a vote of 114 to 0, with 13 abstentions. On 3 November 1972, by a vote of 102 to 0, with 16 abstentions, the Second Committee approved the text, which was sponsored

by Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Republic, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Yugoslavia. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Other matters

At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Government of Iran announced that it was setting aside an area constituting an ecosystem of global importance, to be placed in joint trust with an international agency, and that it was establishing an annual prize for an outstanding contribution in the field of the environment, to be awarded through the United Nations.

The General Assembly welcomed these initiatives in adopting resolution 3003(XXVII). The resolution was adopted by a vote of 116 to 0, with 10 abstentions. The text—proposed by Cameroon, the Congo, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden, Tunisia and Turkey—was approved by the Second Committee on 6 November 1972, by a vote of 97 to 0, with 11 abstentions. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

A draft resolution introduced in the Second Committee by Iceland and Norway would have had the Assembly recognize the need to draw up international agreements for the preservation of the wildlife of the Arctic and adjacent areas; recommend that interested Governments undertake negotiations with the aim of concluding such agreements; and request the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to put the matter on its agenda. The draft resolution was subsequently withdrawn by its sponsors.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—53rd session
Plenary meeting 1840.

E/5133 and Corr.2. Annual report of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) for 1971-1972, Chapter II B.

E/5188. Report of Chairman of Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and Chairman of ACC on joint meetings of CPC and ACC, Section II.

E/5211. Note by Secretary-General, transmitting report of United Nations Conference on Human Environment, Stockholm, Sweden, 5-16 June 1972 (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1).

E/5217. Note by Secretary-General, transmitting his report on United Nations Conference on Human Environment (A/8783).

E/5209/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council, resumed 53rd session. Decision, p. 2.

General Assembly—27th session

Second Committee, meetings 1466-1474, 1478-1483, 1487, 1488, 1499.

Fifth Committee, meeting 1551.

Plenary meeting 2112.

Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, Sweden, 5-18 June 1972. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.73.II.A.14.

A/8688. Note verbale of 2 June 1972 from Hungary.

A/8691. Note verbale of 5 June 1972 from Mongolia.

A/8701. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1971-15 June 1972, Part Three, Chapter VII E.

A/8701/Add.1. Introduction to report of Secretary-General, August 1972, Section X.

A/8703/Add.1. Addendum to report of Economic and Social Council, resumed 53rd session, Chapter VII.

A/8783 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2. Report of Secretary-General.
 A/C.2/277. Letter of 30 October 1972 from Libyan Arab Republic concerning destruction caused by landmines in Libyan soil as a result of Second World War).

International co-operation on environmental problems

CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

A/C.2/L.1229. Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, United States: draft resolution.

A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1. Revised draft resolution, sponsored by above 20 powers and by Australia, Cyprus, Ghana, Guatemala, Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, approved by Second Committee on 2 November 1972, meeting 1479, by 103 votes to 0, with 12 abstentions.

A/C.2/L.1245, A/C.5/1491, A/8708/Add.23 (para. 16), A/8972 (paras. 9-11 and 14 (c)). Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I recommended by Second Committee in A/8901. Statements by Secretary-General and reports of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and Fifth Committee.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution I.

Resolution 2994(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 112 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the international community to take action to preserve and enhance the environment and, in particular, the need for continuous international co-operation to this end,

Recalling its resolutions 2398(XXIII) of 3 December 1968, 2581(XXIV) of 15 December 1969, 2657(XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2849(XXVI) and 2850(XXVI) of 20 December 1971,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and the report of the Secretary-General thereon,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment succeeded in focusing the attention of Governments and public opinion on the need for prompt action in the field of the environment,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;

2. Draws the attention of Governments and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers the Action Plan for the Human Environment to the Governing Council for appropriate action;

3. Draws the attention of Governments to the recommendations for action at the national level referred to them by the Conference for their consideration and such action as they might deem appropriate;

4. Designates 5 June as World Environment Day and urges Governments and the organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and

to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference;

5. Takes note with appreciation of resolution 4(I) of 15 June 1972 adopted by the Conference on the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers this matter to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme with the request that the Council study this matter, taking into account the status of implementation of the Action Plan and future developments in the field of the environment, and report its views and recommendations to the General Assembly so that the Assembly can take a decision on all aspects of the matter not later than at its twenty-ninth session.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATES AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES

A/C.2/L.1227. Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 2 November 1972, meeting 1479, by 114 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

A/C.2/L.1233. Canada and New Zealand: amendments to 59-power draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1227.

A/8901 and Corr.2. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution II.

Resolution 2995(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 115 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Having considered principle 20 as contained in the draft text of a preamble and principles of the declaration on the human environment, referred to it for consideration by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Recalling its resolution 2849(XXVI) of 20 December 1971 entitled "Development and environment,"

Bearing in mind that, in exercising their sovereignty over their natural resources, States must seek, through effective bilateral and multilateral co-operation or through regional machinery, to preserve and improve the environment,

1. Emphasizes that, in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce significant harmful effects in zones situated outside their national jurisdiction;

2. Recognizes that co-operation between States in the field of the environment, including co-operation towards the implementation of principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, will be effectively achieved if official and public knowledge is provided of the technical data relating to the work to be carried out by States within their national jurisdiction, with a view to avoiding significant harm that may occur in the environment of the adjacent area;

3. Further recognizes that the technical data referred to in paragraph 2 above will be given and received in the best spirit of co-operation and good-neighbourliness,

without this being construed as enabling each State to delay or impede the programmes and projects of exploration, exploitation and development of the natural resources of the States in whose territories such programmes and projects are carried out.

A/C.2/L.1240 and Corr.1. Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama: draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 2 November 1972, meeting 1479, by 111 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions. A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution III.

Resolution 2996(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by recorded vote of 112 to 0, with 10 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mauritania, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

The General Assembly,

Recalling principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment concerning the international responsibility of States in regard to the environment,

Bearing in mind that those principles lay down the basic rules governing this matter,

Declares that no resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly can affect principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

A/C.2/L.1228. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Iran, Kenya, Jamaica, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, United States: draft resolution, as amended by 24 powers, A/C.2/L.1243, approved by Second Committee on 2 November 1972, meeting 1479, by 115 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

A/C.2/L.1232, A/C.5/1487 and Corr.1,2, A/8708/Add.23 (paras. 2-13), A/8972 (paras. 2-5 and 14 (a)). Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution IV recommended by Second Committee in A/8901.

Statements by Secretary-General and reports of ACABQ and Fifth Committee.

A/C.2/L.1243. Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1228. A/8965. Note by Secretary-General. A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution IV.

Resolution 2997(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 116 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by Governments and the international community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the environment for the benefit of present and future generations of man,

Recognizing that responsibility for action to protect and enhance the environment rests primarily with Governments and, in the first instance, can be exercised more effectively at the national and regional levels,

Recognizing further that environmental problems of broad international significance fall within the competence of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that international co-operative programmes in the field of the environment must be undertaken with due respect for the sovereign rights of States and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law,

Mindful of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations in the United Nations system,

Conscious of the significance of regional and sub-regional co-operation in the field of the environment and of the important role of the regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations,

Emphasizing that problems of the environment constitute a new and important area for International co-operation and that the complexity and interdependence of such problems require new approaches,

Recognizing that the relevant international scientific and other professional communities can make an important contribution to international co-operation in the field of the environment,

Conscious of the need for processes within the United Nations system which would effectively assist developing countries to implement environmental policies and programmes that are compatible with their development plans and to participate meaningfully in international environmental programmes,

Convinced that, in order to be effective, international co-operation in the field of the environment requires additional financial and technical resources,

Aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system for the protection and improvement of the environment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

I

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. Decides to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, composed of fifty-eight members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms on the following basis:

- (a) Sixteen seats for African States;
- (b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;
- (c) Six seats for Eastern European States;
- (d) Ten seats for Latin American States;
- (e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States;

2. Decides that the Governing Council shall have the following main functions and responsibilities:

(a) To promote international co-operation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2, below, on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;

(g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

3. Decides that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination and to the relationship of environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities;

II

Environment secretariat

1. Decides that a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management;

2. Decides that the environment secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, who shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General for a term of four years and who shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To provide substantive support to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) To co-ordinate, under the guidance of the Governing Council, environmental programmes within

the United Nations system, to keep their implementation under review and to assess their effectiveness;

(c) To advise, as appropriate and under the guidance of the Governing Council, intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes;

(d) To secure the effective co-operation of, and contribution from, the relevant scientific and other professional communities in all parts of the world;

(e) To provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment;

(f) To submit to the Governing Council, on his own initiative or upon request, proposals embodying medium-range and long-range planning for United Nations programmes in the field of the environment;

(g) To bring to the attention of the Governing Council any matter which he deems to require consideration by it;

(h) To administer, under the authority and policy guidance of the Governing Council, the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

(i) To report on environmental matters to the Governing Council;

(j) To perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the Governing Council;

3. Decides that the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the small secretariat referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations and that operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Environment Fund established under section III below shall be borne by the Fund;

III

Environment Fund

1. Decides that, in order to provide for additional financing for environmental programmes, a voluntary fund shall be established, with effect from 1 January 1973, in accordance with existing United Nations financial procedures;

2. Decides that, in order to enable the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its policy-guidance role for the direction and co-ordination of environmental activities, the Environment Fund shall finance wholly or partly the costs of the new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system—which will include the initiatives envisaged in the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, with particular attention to integrated projects, and such other environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council—and that the Governing Council shall review these initiatives with a view to taking appropriate decisions as to their continued financing;

3. Decides that the Environment Fund shall be used for financing such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting systems, including, as appropriate, costs for national counterparts; the improvement of environmental quality management; environmental research; information exchange and dissemination; public education and training; assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; the promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards; and such other programmes as the Governing Council may decide upon, and that in the implementation of such programmes due account

should be taken of the special needs of the developing countries;

4. Decides that, in order to ensure that the development priorities of developing countries shall not be adversely affected, adequate measures shall be taken to provide additional financial resources on terms compatible with the economic situation of the recipient developing country, and that, to this end, the Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations, shall keep this problem under continuing review;

5. Decides that the Environment Fund, in pursuance of the objectives stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, shall be directed to the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations;

6. Decides that, in the implementation of programmes to be financed by the Environment Fund, organizations outside the United Nations system, particularly those in the countries and regions concerned, shall also be utilized as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the Governing Council, and that such organizations are invited to support the United Nations environmental programmes by complementary initiatives and contributions;

7. Decides that the Governing Council shall formulate such general procedures as are necessary to govern the operations of the Environment Fund;

IV

Environment Co-ordination Board

1. Decides that, in order to provide for the most efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes, an Environment Co-ordination Board, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, shall be established under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

2. Further decides that the Environment Co-ordination Board shall meet periodically for the purpose of ensuring co-operation and co-ordination among all bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes and that it shall report annually to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems, taking into account existing procedures for prior consultation, particularly on programme and budgetary matters;

4. Invites the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, in co-operation where necessary with other appropriate regional bodies, to intensify further their efforts directed towards contributing to the implementation of environmental programmes in view of the particular need for the rapid development of regional co-operation in this field;

5. Also invites other intergovernmental and those non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the field of the environment to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination;

6. Calls upon Governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions shall be entrusted with the task of the co-ordination of environmental action, both national and international;

7. Decides to review as appropriate, at its thirty-

first session, the above Institutional arrangements, bearing in mind, inter alia, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

A/8783/Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2. Location of proposed environment secretariat. Report of Secretary-General.

A/C.2/L.1232 (para. 11), A/C.2/L.1255, A/C.5/1487 and Corr.1,2 (paras. 5-8 and section B), A/8708/Add.23 (paras. 2-13), A/8972 (paras. 2-5). Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution XI recommended by Second Committee in A/8901. Statements by Secretary-General and reports of ACABQ and Fifth Committee.

A/C.2/L.1246 and Rev.1. Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Dahomey, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia: draft resolution and revision, as orally amended by Australia and Philippines, approved by Second Committee on 10 November 1972, meeting 1487, by recorded vote of 93 to 0, with 31 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Kingdom, United States.

A/C.2/L.1247. Malta: amendment to 37-power draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1246.

A/C.2/L.1249. Finland, Netherlands, Sweden: draft resolution.

A/C.2/L.1250. United Kingdom: amendments to 37-power revised draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1246/Rev.1.

A/C.2/L.1251. Tunisia: amendments to 37-power revised draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1246/Rev.1.

A/C.2/L.1254. Administrative and financial implications of 3-power draft resolution, A/C.2/L.1249. Statement by Secretary-General.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution XI.

Resolution 3004(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 128 votes to 0.

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 2398(XXIII) of 3 December 1968, 2581(XXIV) of 15 December 1969, 2657(XXV) of 7 December 1970 and 2850(XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Noting with appreciation the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in particular the recommendation on the establishment of the environment secretariat,

Noting also the report of the Secretary-General on the location of the proposed environment secretariat,

Considering that the headquarters of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies are all located in the developed States in North America and Western Europe,

Convinced that in order to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, in accordance with the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, the activities and headquarters or secretariats of United Nations bodies or agencies should be located having regard, inter alia, to equitable geographical distribution of such activities, headquarters or secretariats,

1. Decides to locate the environment secretariat in a developing country;
2. Further decides to locate the environment secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

Measures to protect the environment

World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/4962/Rev.1 and Corr.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.II.A.18 and corrigendum. A/C.2/L.1234. Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Republic, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 3 November 1972, meeting 1481, by recorded vote of 103 to 0, with 13 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution VII.

Resolution 3000(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 De-

cember 1972, meeting 2112, by 117 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Cognizant of the effective contribution of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Sweden for acting as host to the Conference,

Convinced that actions at the national level can complement and perfect the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the Conference,

Recalling its resolution 2849(XXVI) of 20 December 1971 entitled "Development and environment" and the set of recommendations of the Conference pertaining to development and environment,

Recalling further paragraphs 2 (e) and 5 (d) of Conference resolution 1(1) of 15 June 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1718(LIII) of 28 July 1972,

1. Stresses the importance of action at the national level for protecting and enhancing the environment;
2. Calls upon the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to explore at its first session ways and means of promoting effective regional programmes in the field of the environment;
3. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in formulating environmental programmes, to ensure the compatibility of the implementation of these programmes with:

(a) The policy measures and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade relating to science and technology;

(b) Policy measures and objectives that are to be recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development upon consideration of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development;

4. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to keep this matter under review and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the steps taken with regard to paragraph 3 above.

Development and environment

A/C.2/L.1236. Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sudan: draft resolution.

A/C.2/L.1236/Rev.1. Brazil, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic: revised draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 6 November 1972, meeting 1482, by 85 votes to 0, with 21 abstentions.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution IX.

Resolution 3002(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 110 votes to 0, with 16 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2849(XXVI) of 20 December 1971 entitled "Development and environment,"

Considering its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December

1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation,

Noting the set of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment pertaining to development and environment,

Reaffirming the importance of implementing the objectives and policy measures of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the need to provide adequate resources for their fulfilment,

Bearing in mind that the funds available to the international community for research and action in the fields of the protection and enhancement of the environment will tend to be scarce in relation to the needs,

1. Stresses that, in the implementation and financing of the objectives set forth in section III, paragraphs 2 and 3, of General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII), such environmental measures and programmes as may also constitute a necessary part of the process of accelerating the economic development of developing countries should receive special consideration in the formulation of programmes and priorities by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in formulating environmental programmes to ensure, in accordance with the principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 2849(XXVI), the compatibility of these programmes with the objectives and policy measures of global strategies and sectoral guidelines for the economic development of developing countries as defined by the United Nations;

3. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and section I, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII), in such a way as to enhance the attainment of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and to ensure that the development priorities of the developing countries set out in the International Development Strategy are in no way adversely affected or distorted;

4. Recommends respect for the principle that resources for environmental programmes, both within and outside the United Nations system, be additional to the present level and projected growth of resources contemplated in the International Development Strategy, to be made available for programmes directly related to developmental assistance;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report providing a comprehensive picture within the United Nations system of the distribution and patterns of growth of resources and programmes in various fields, including funds for special purposes, in order to permit an evaluation of their conformity with the over-all policies and priorities of development as established in the relevant decisions of the Council and the Assembly.

Questions pertaining to human settlements

World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/4962/Rev.1 and Corr.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.II.A.18 and corrigendum. Proposals for Action on Finance for Housing, Building and Planning. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.73.IV.4.

A/C.2/L.1230. Guyana, Kenya, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Upper Volta: draft resolution, as orally amended by Egypt and by sponsors, approved

by Second Committee on 3 November 1972, meeting 1481, by roll-call vote of 81 to 0, with 34 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Khmer Republic, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Kingdom, United States.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution V.

Resolution 2998(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 96 votes to 0, with 29 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

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 and 2718(XXV) of 15 December 1970,

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

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

Taking into account the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,

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

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

Noting the report of the Secretary-General entitled Proposals for Action on Finance for Housing, Building and Planning,

Taking into account the annual report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for 1970, in which the Bank, inter alia, considered that priority should be given to housing and human settlements,

Taking note of the policy statement on urbanization of 1972 of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which, inter alia, reaffirms the important role of housing and human settlements in overall national development,

Further taking note of the recognition by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the need to establish appropriate national finance institutions to mobilize domestic capital to finance these activities,

Reaffirming in particular recommendations 1, 15, 16 and 17 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

1. Recommends that all development assistance agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should in their development assistance activities also give high priority to requests from Governments for assistance in housing and human settlements;

2. Recommends that, in its lending policies in this sector, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should provide funds on terms and conditions which fully reflect the unique nature and characteristics of housing and related investments;

3. Recommends that in establishing criteria for eligibility for loans under more favourable terms and conditions the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should take into account, in addition to economic and monetary criteria, such critical socio-economic factors as levels of unemployment, rates of urban growth, population density, and the general condition of the housing stock in the developing countries;

4. Further recommends that as a matter of priority the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in agreement with requesting Governments, should implement its stated policy of providing seed capital loans on favourable terms, taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 3 above, for the establishment of domestic financial institutions and organizations to mobilize and allocate capital for housing and related investments;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Proposals for Action on Finance for Housing, Building and Planning. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.73.IV.4.

A/C.2/L.1231. Indonesia, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Yemen: draft resolution, as orally amended by Tunisia, approved by Second Committee on 3 November 1972, meeting 1481, by recorded vote of 82 to 6, with 27 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania,

Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

A/C.2/L.1244, A/C.5/1492, A/8708/Add.23 (paras. 14 and 15), A/8972 (paras. 6-8 and 14 (b)). Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution VI recommended by Second Committee in A/8901. Statements by Secretary-General and reports of ACABQ and Fifth Committee.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution VI.

Resolution 2999(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 93 votes to 5, with 27 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Concerned with the lack of improvement in the deplorable world housing situation, particularly the critical shortage of low-cost housing or minimal standards of housing in developing countries,

Aware that the environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty, one of the palpable manifestations of which is the substandard quality of human settlements, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing the need for intensified and more concrete international action to strengthen national programmes in the planning, improvement and management of rural and urban settlements, thereby narrowing the growing gap between housing needs and available supply and improving the environmental quality of human settlements,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General entitled Proposals for Action on Finance for Housing, Building and Planning,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1170(XLI) of 5 August 1966 and 1507(XLVIII) of 28 May 1970 on a proposed international institution to support domestic savings and credit facilities in housing,

Noting in particular recommendation 17 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, that Governments and the Secretary-General should take immediate steps to establish an international fund or financial institution that would provide seed capital and technical assistance for the effective mobilization of domestic resources for housing and the environmental improvement of human settlements,

1. Endorses in principle the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for the purpose envisaged in recommendation 17 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed on this subject at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to prepare a study on the establishment and operations of such a fund or institution, together with his recommendations and proposals, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council;

3. Invites the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to collaborate in the preparation of the study referred to in paragraph 2 above.

World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/4962/Rev.1 and Corr.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.II.A.18 and corrigendum.

A/C.2/L.1235. Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Republic, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 3 November 1972, meeting 1481, by 102 votes to 0, with 16 abstentions.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution VIII.

Resolution 3001(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 114 votes to 0, with 13 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 2718(XXV) of 15 December 1970, in which it recommended broad directions and measures essential for the improvement of human settlements,

Noting the urgency of the world-wide human settlement problems, present and future,

Taking into account the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,

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

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

Desiring to maintain the momentum of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in this area through a conference-exposition on human settlements, the preparation for which should generate a review of policies and programmes for human settlements, national and international, and should result in the selection and support of a series of demonstration projects on human settlements sponsored by individual countries and the United Nations,

Taking into account recommendation 2.2 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by

the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

1. Decides to hold a United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements;

2. Accepts the offer of the Government of Canada to act as host to the Conference-Exposition in 1975;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session a report containing a plan for, and anticipated costs of, the Conference-Exposition.

Other matters

A/C.2/L.1237. Cameroon, Congo, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey: draft resolution, approved by Second Committee on 6 November 1972, meeting 1482, by 97 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions.

A/8901. Report of Second Committee, draft resolution X.

Resolution 3003(XXVII), as recommended by Second Committee, A/8901, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1972, meeting 2112, by 116 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Recalling recommendation 38 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Recalling also that one main purpose of the Conference was to increase the awareness among Governments and public opinion about the importance and urgency of the problems of the environment,

Recognizing that effective international co-operation in the field of the environment should be firmly based on action at the national level,

Welcomes the Initiative of the Government of Iran in setting aside an area constituting an ecosystem of global importance to be placed in joint trust with an international agency and in establishing an annual prize by that Government for the most outstanding contribution in the field of the environment to be awarded through the United Nations.

A/C.2/L.1241. Iceland and Norway: draft resolution.