

Environment and human settlements

In 2014, the United Nations continued its work in protecting the environment and improving the living conditions of people in cities through legally binding instruments along with activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in June, included a high-level segment on the themes “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production” and “Illegal trade in wildlife”. The Environment Assembly reaffirmed commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, “The future we want”. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on science-policy interface; chemicals and waste; marine plastic debris and microplastics; the role of UNEP in promoting air quality; ecosystem-based adaptation; the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme; UN-system coordination on the environment; the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements; implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the programmes of work and budgets for 2014–2015 and 2016–2017; and amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility.

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its twentieth session in December, adopted the Lima Call for Climate Action, which confirmed that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action would complete the work required for the Conference of the Parties, at its twenty-first (2015) session, to adopt a protocol, legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention. Annexed to that decision were the elements for a draft negotiating text. Additional outcomes from the session included progress on the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, and the Lima work programme on gender.

In October, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted 35 decisions, including those related to the integration of biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and progress made in implementing the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

Convention on Biological Diversity, serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adopted 13 decisions, including those on risk assessment and risk management, socioeconomic considerations and monitoring and reporting. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization entered into force on 12 October. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted 13 decisions to advance implementation of the Protocol.

In November, the combined tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and twenty-sixth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol adopted 22 decisions.

UN-Habitat continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. The seventh session of the World Urban Forum took place in April under the theme “Urban equity in development: cities for life” and discussed, inter alia, urban equity in development law; urban planning for social cohesion; and raising standards for urban resilience. The outcome of the Forum: the Medellín Declaration, provided recommendations on four key areas: equity as a foundation of sustainable urban development; the city as opportunity; the new urban agenda; and contributing to the future.

In May, the first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council focused on sustainable urbanization and provided a platform for discussion on how urbanization could become an instrument for the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In September, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held its first session, at which the Habitat III Secretary-General reported on an outline of work leading up to the Conference in 2016.

Environment

UN Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held in Nairobi from 23 to

27 June [A/69/25]. Ministerial-level consultations (26–27 June), which focused on the themes of “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production” and “Illegal trade in wildlife”, included discussions on eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity within the earth’s safe operating space through sustainable consumption and production; and ensuring a healthy environment, restoring natural assets and enhancing the durability of infrastructure. Annexed to the report [UNEP/EA.1/10] was a summary of the views expressed during the ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife, convened on 26 June. For its consideration the Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/7] by the secretariat on regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders leading up to the first session, and reports of the Executive Director on UNEP engagement with regional ministerial forums and their contributions to the Assembly [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.2] and a draft policy on stakeholder engagement in UNEP [UNEP/EA.1/2].

The Environment Assembly adopted amendments to the rules of procedure [A/69/25 (res. 1/2)] and, recalling paragraph 6 of Governing Council decision 27/2 [YUN 2013, p. 988], decided that each of the five regions would be represented by two members in the 10-member UNEA Bureau [dec. 1/1]. The Assembly further decided to hold its second session in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016 [dec. 1/2].

The Committee of the Whole, established by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held six meetings during the Assembly to consider the agenda items assigned to it.

The Environment Assembly heard from the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its preparations for the first session. A report [UNEP/EA.1/INF/4] submitted to the Assembly contained the minutes of meetings held by the Committee since the twenty-seventh (2013) session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/254**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Environment Assembly on its first session.

The General Assembly took note of the report in resolution 69/223 of 19 December (see p. 1178).

Election. On 7 March (**decision 68/416**), the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, re-elected Achim Steiner (Germany/Brazil) as UNEP Executive Director for a two-year term beginning on 15 June 2014 and ending on 14 June 2016.

High-level segment

Sustainable consumption and production

The Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/18] by the UNEP secretariat on environmental sustainability for human well-being in the

post-2015 development agenda. The note discussed an integrated framework for the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; evidence from integrated solutions; and building the sustainability foundation for the post-2015 development agenda. The shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns through valuing, maintaining and increasing natural capital, sustainable innovation and dematerialization processes had created opportunities for poverty eradication, green jobs, business and prosperity. The note concluded that the integration of economic growth, social protection and justice, and environmental stewardship should be at the core of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

The Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/1)] adopted the ministerial outcome document of its first session, reaffirming its commitment to achieve a universal, implementable and realizable post-2015 development agenda with the aim of eradicating poverty, protecting the environment and promoting inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature.

Report of Secretary-General. In a September report [E/2014/93] prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811] and 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787], the Secretary-General summarized progress on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress had been achieved through the adoption of the 10-year framework at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) [YUN 2012, p. 780], which created momentum for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns. Serving as the 10-year framework secretariat, UNEP put in place the framework’s mandated governance structure; organized regional meetings and workshops for national focal points; guided the multi-stakeholder consultation process to develop the framework programmes; and established procedures for the launch and development of such programmes. The secretariat established a trust fund to provide financial support to the framework and specific programmes and initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The report summarized key mechanisms to delivering capacity-building and implementation at the regional and national levels, as well as regional, national and international progress. The Secretary-General reported on the UN Environment Assembly’s focus at the ministerial level on sustainable consumption and production during its first session, noting that ministers highlighted the potential of the 10-year framework as an important tool for the development of economies on a sustainable basis. He also noted that sustainable consumption and production and the 10-year framework were included in the agenda and dialogues of the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and at the high-level political forum

on sustainable development, convened in New York from 30 June to 9 July (see p. 944). He concluded that progress had been achieved, but there remained a challenge to communicate and demonstrate the added value of sustainable consumption and production and its potential contributions to competitiveness, social development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/254**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Illegal trade in wildlife

The Environment Assembly had before it a UNEP secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/19] on the illegal trade in wildlife and its environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development. The note summarized the scale of the crisis and the particular challenge of the illegal trade in woodfuel and charcoal. It was estimated that global resources worth between \$48 billion and \$158 billion were lost each year through the illegal trade of wildlife, and it played a significant role in threat finance by providing funding for organized crime and non-State armed groups, including terrorist groups. The illegal trade in wildlife was recognized as a significant threat to the environment and sustainable development, as reflected in a progression of international decisions, and the international community and individual countries had implemented a range of successful initiatives to address the crisis. The most effective responses were those that caused a reduction in consumer demand, but such responses required behavioural change, effected through greater awareness and understanding at the consumer end, including about how wildlife was laundered through legal supply chains. Trends suggested that priority attention should be focused on the illegal trade in charcoal and other forest products and the illegal trade derived from charismatic mammals, such as elephants and rhinoceros. The note concluded that responses to the crisis would need to target both the demand and supply elements of the supply chain, as well as the engagement of national and international stakeholders.

In light of the negative impact of wildlife trafficking on sustainable development, the Environmental Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/3)] stressed the importance of addressing the issue in the context of the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960) and requested the UNEP Executive Director to work closely with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Secretary-General's Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, notably on core areas of UNEP expertise, such as environmental aspects

of the rule of law, judicial training and information exchange about judicial decisions and practices. In the ministerial outcome document of its first session, the Assembly [res. 1/1] called on the international community and reaffirmed its commitment to take action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

Programme areas

Climate change

During the year, UNEP assisted governments, businesses and individuals on emissions reduction towards minimizing the pace and scale of climate change, and assisted nations and communities most likely to be affected to become more resilient to changing climatic conditions.

The Environmental Assembly had before it a UNEP secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/12] on progress in developing the global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) since the twenty-seventh (2013) and first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Forum [YUN 2013, p. 986]. PROVIA represented an interface between the research community, decision makers and other stakeholders, helping the international community of practice share practical experiences and research findings.

In the ministerial outcome document of its first session, the Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/1)] called on the international community and reaffirmed its commitment to undertake urgent actions to address climate change, in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to continue to work towards the adoption in 2015 of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, other legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all parties.

UN system coordination and cooperation

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.3] by the UNEP Executive Director on enhancing the coordinating role of UNEP in the UN system on environmental matters, prepared in follow-up to paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, entitled "The future we want" [YUN 2012, p. 791].

Also before the Assembly was a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.2] by the UNEP Executive Director on progress on the work of the Environment Management Group (EMG) [YUN 1998, p. 981], including its issue-specific and technical groups, pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/5 [YUN 2013, p. 989]. The report presented information on the Group's activities and achievements in enhancing coherence in programming environmental activities, mainstreaming environment and enhancing sustainability in policies,

programmes and management practices; it also set out the Group's strategic approach and provided an overview of the direction of its future work, as approved by the Group at their nineteenth (2013) meeting.

Other documents before the Environment Assembly concerning UN system coordination on the environment were a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/9] by the Executive Director listing the corporate memorandums of understanding concluded between UNEP and other UN system bodies, and a secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/22] providing additional information on the plan for the preparation of a UN system-wide strategy on the environment.

The Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/11)] requested the Executive Director, in his capacity as EMG Chair, to develop system-wide strategies on the environment; to invite the engagement of the UN Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels; and to report to the second (2016) session of the Environment Assembly on the Group's work, including recommendations for measures to maximize the effectiveness of EMG and a description of the integration of the outcome of the post-2015 development agenda into the UN environmental work.

International environmental governance

In response to paragraph 29 of Governing Council decision 27/13 [YUN 2013, p. 991], the Executive Director submitted a May report [UNEP/EA.1/INF/8] on the institutional and administrative relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP served as secretariat or performed secretariat functions. The report was prepared in consultation with the secretariats of 11 multilateral environmental agreements. Prior to preparing the report, the Executive Director established a task team comprised of representatives from the secretariats of the multilateral agreements and the relevant UNEP offices to discuss the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between them. The task team held its first meeting on 3 February.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/12)] took note of the report of the Executive Director and welcomed the step taken to establish a task team. It also requested the Executive Director to submit information on the progress made by the task team to the relevant conferences and meetings held in the lead-up to the second session of the UN Environment Assembly.

JIU report. In later notes [A/69/763 & Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report [JIU/REP/2014/4] of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system", followed by his comments on that report and those of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Chemicals and waste

Waste management. The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/5 & Add.1, 2] by the Executive Director on chemicals and waste management, which provided information on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/12 [YUN 2013, p. 990] on the topic. The report summarized the activities carried out by UNEP on lead and cadmium; mercury; implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [YUN 2006, p. 1246]; waste management; persistent organic pollutants; enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster; and the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.

The Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/5)], having considered the report of the Executive Director, emphasized that the sound management of chemicals and waste was an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development, and requested the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the implementation of the resolution at its second session.

Financing options. The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.1] of the Executive Director that contained draft terms of reference for a special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the future Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The Assembly [res. 1/5] adopted the terms of reference for a special programme, as annexed to the resolution, to be funded by voluntary contributions. It requested the Executive Director to establish and administer the Special Programme trust fund and to provide a secretariat to deliver administrative support to the Programme. It also requested the Executive Board of the Special Programme to review the effectiveness of the operational arrangements for the Programme set out in the terms of reference and report to the UN Environment Assembly at its third (2018) session.

Cooperation and coordination. The Environment Assembly [res. 1/5] welcomed the report [UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.2] of the Executive Director on the outcome of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster and the outcome document of the process, entitled "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term". It requested that the Executive Director forward the outcome document to the upcoming sessions and conferences of the parties of relevant committees, conventions and working groups.

Public participation and access to information and justice

The Environment Assembly [res. 1/13] took note of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment

and Development, acknowledging the importance given to broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings in environmental matters. It noted in particular the progress made in strengthening dialogue among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean towards the application of Principle 10, namely their cooperation on exploring the feasibility of a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice, under the coordination of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Assembly requested the Executive Director to further enhance access to information in future related policies.

Access to information policy. The Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/23] by the secretariat transmitting the draft access-to-information policy, established by the Executive Director in accordance with paragraph 17 of decision 27/2 of the first (2013) universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The policy, which would apply to information in the custody of the UNEP secretariat, would be piloted and refined in the next year, with the intention of issuing a final version by the end of June 2015.

Sustainable development and poverty eradication

The Environment Assembly [res. 1/10] took note of Governing Council decision 27/8 [YUN 2013, p. 988], in which the Council acknowledged that there were different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by UN Member States in order to achieve sustainable development, and in that regard took note of the approach of “Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth” as a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development that could guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems. The Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to consider organizing a workshop at its second (2016) session about different approaches, visions, models and tools for achieving sustainable development, and to provide a report in response to paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8 [YUN 2013, p. 988] on the collection and dissemination of information in support of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It also requested the Executive Director to guide and facilitate, through UNEP-Live (see below), the visibility of different visions, approaches, models and tools for sustainable development, and to take those findings into consideration during the consultation processes for the Global Environment Outlook and UNEP-Live.

State of the environment

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/4] of the Executive Director on the state of

the environment, which summarized the key scientific and policy issues coming from the assessment and early-warning activities of UNEP that needed to be brought to the Assembly’s attention. The report highlighted the scientific findings of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the fifth report in the UNEP Global Environment Outlook series, entitled *GEO-5: Global Environment Outlook: Environment for the Future We Want*, and the *Emissions Gap Report 2013*, among others. The report concluded that the scientific community was being asked to synthesize the latest environmental information in order to respond to a growing number of challenges facing society as a result of a changing Earth system. The knowledge gathered by UNEP, based on data and information on broad geographical and temporal scales, needed to be processed through various scientific disciplines. The goal for policymakers was to use that knowledge to inform people about the risks, opportunities and choices that existed, rather than to advocate particular management solutions.

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/4/Add.1] by the UNEP Executive Director on support structures and processes for keeping the world environment situation under review. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/11 [YUN 2013, p. 990], the report summarized recent progress in the development of UNEP-Live—a web-based platform for promoting access to and the use of environmental information. The report presented a proposal for a multi-stage approach for the production of the next report in the Global Environment Outlook series, GEO-6, towards ensuring the delivery of the key findings of GEO-6 in time for endorsement at the second (2016) session of the Environment Assembly. The report also reviewed the status of various other assessment processes, platforms and networks.

Science-policy interface

The Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.1] of the UNEP Executive Director on the key actions undertaken to strengthen the science-policy interface to better address the changing nature and implications of human–environment interactions, global megatrends and policies on sustainable development and human well-being. The actions taken included, inter alia, expanding partnerships with centres of excellence and international research programmes to underpin the science in the UNEP programme of work; working closely with Member States, major groups and stakeholders and multilateral environmental agreements to publish data through the UNEP-Live knowledge management system; and collaborating with other institutions to undertake a gap analysis and evaluation of emerging issues.

The Environment Assembly also had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/14] by the UNEP secretariat on proposed procedures for enhancing future assessment

processes and transparency safeguards, based on a review of best practices. The proposed procedures emphasized general principles; stakeholder engagement and selection of participants; policy relevance; legitimacy and scientific credibility; transparency; administrative processes; conflict of interest; inclusion of diverging viewpoints; and government and peer-review processes.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/4)] welcomed the progress made during the design and development of UNEP-Live as a tool to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the future approach to keeping the world environment situation under review. It also welcomed the briefing on the science-policy interface by the Executive Director to the high-level segment of the first session of the Environment Assembly, and requested the Executive Director to continue providing information from existing and ongoing assessments, and on progress made towards previously agreed global environmental goals to guide future policy debates at the Assembly. The Executive Director was further requested to promote a strong science-policy interface by expanding partnerships with centres of excellence and research programmes; to foster collaboration with multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, relevant UN agencies and programmes and scientific panels for joint efforts to strengthen the science-policy interface; and to work closely with relevant UN bodies on production of the Global Sustainable Development Report; to undertake, within the work and budget programme, the preparation of the sixth Global Environment Outlook report. The Assembly also requested the Executive Director to submit to its second (2016) session a long-term plan for the development and use of UNEP-Live; a gap analysis report on environmental data, information and assessments as well as recommendations on policy instruments for a strengthened science-policy interface; and a report on the present resolution.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.1] of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/4 [YUN 2013, p. 988] on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The report summarized key decisions of the Plenary of the Platform at its second session (Antalya, Turkey, 9–14 December 2013) [UNEP/EA.1/INF/15], including the adoption of its work programme for 2014–2018 and other activities carried out in the first quarter of 2014. Operationalization of the Platform was an opportunity for innovation in the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services because of its recognition of the importance of indigenous and local knowledge, and its emphasis on capacity-building and ensuring

that the best available information was provided to decision makers in accordance with their needs.

Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme

The Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/13] by the secretariat on the status of the evaluation and redesign of the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water). Key stakeholders in the Programme had worked out modalities, outlined a rationale and carried out a mapping of individual partner preferences. The potential for enhancing GEMS/Water benefits and services for global, regional and country-based water quality assessment and policy information, including in providing evidence and knowledge products for the post-2015 agenda and the next Global Environment Outlook (GEO), had been explored. Opportunities had emerged from the launch of UNEP-Live, which would provide freshwater quality assurance and quality-control data and information in support of the GEO process. The report highlighted the vision for GEMS/Water, including its objectives, functions, challenges, transition options and planned reforms.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/9)] underlined the need to further improve the global coverage and consistency of water quality data and requested the UNEP Executive Director to collaborate with member States to identify additional key elements of GEMS/Water, such as regional hubs, capacity development programmes, technology support and new services, and to ensure the necessary resources for enabling the UNEP-based GEMS/Water Global Programme Coordination Unit to operate as the interface between national focal points, GEMStat, the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, GEMS/Water regional hubs and relevant global partners. It also requested the Executive Director to initiate discussions on a common data policy with member States, UN agencies and other relevant organizations towards building a consistent database in GEMStat, supporting UNEP-Live and informing sustainable development policies. The Assembly further requested the Executive Director to draft a revised GEMS/Water programme, including a budget, for adoption at its second (2016) session.

Ecosystem-based adaptation

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/8)], conscious of the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change, recognized that ecosystem-based approaches should contribute to climate-resilient sustainable development in synergy with other adaptation-relevant approaches in all sectors. It encouraged all countries to include and improve ecosystem and community-based adaptation in their national policies, including those on climate change adaptation, food security and the sustainable management

of forests. It requested the UNEP Executive Director to continue the collaboration between UNEP and UNDP and with other relevant institutions and organizations to integrate ecosystems as a key element in national adaptation planning processes. It also requested the Executive Director, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, UN agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, to enhance support to developing countries, at their request, for the development and implementation of community-based, and national and regional ecosystem-based adaptation programmes and activities.

International water quality guidelines for ecosystems

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3] of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/3 [YUN 2013, p. 988] on the development of international water quality guidelines for ecosystems. Achievements included strengthened recognition of the need for such guidelines, as demonstrated by the nominations from over 50 Governments of policy and technical experts to support the process, and the establishment of agreements and partnerships with UN agencies and other organizations such as water associations and universities. The Executive Director reported progress on defining the outline of the guidelines and noted that the draft guidelines would be subjected to regional and international consultation processes in 2015, with the final draft envisaged to be ready for submission to the second (2016) session of the Environment Assembly.

Marine plastic debris and microplastics

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/6)] recognized the problem of plastics, including microplastics, in the marine environment due to their large and increasing use and the inadequate management and disposal of plastic waste, and because plastic debris in the marine environment was fragmenting into secondary microplastics. It emphasized that further urgent action was needed to address the challenges posed by marine plastic debris and microplastics, by addressing such materials at source, by reducing pollution through improved waste management practices and by cleaning up existing debris and litter. The Assembly requested the Executive Director to support countries in the development and implementation of national or regional action plans to reduce marine litter, and, in consultation with other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to undertake a study on marine plastic debris and marine microplastics and to present the study for consideration at its second (2016) session.

Air quality

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/7)] recognized that poor air quality was a growing challenge in the context of sustainable development and

that efforts across sectors to improve air quality were needed. It requested, *inter alia*, the UNEP Executive Director to support Governments through capacity-building activities on air quality, such as workshops and policy development assistance; raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the benefits of improved air quality, including through public outreach and Global Environment Outlook assessment processes; and to undertake global, regional and subregional assessments by 2016, if possible, focused on identifying gaps in capacity to address air quality issues. The Assembly further requested the Executive Director to present to its second (2016) session a report on information from Governments regarding their cross-sectoral actions to improve air quality and an update on progress made in implementing the present resolution.

Environmental law

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.3] of the UNEP Executive Director on the process for the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV), and developments in the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/9 [YUN 2013, p. 989]. The report noted that the Montevideo Programme, as a broad strategy for formulating environmental law activities for the decade 2010–2019, was synonymous with the evolution of environmental law and a driver for exemplifying the increased linkages between environmental law and the three pillars of the United Nations—peace and security, human rights and development. The Executive Director hoped the midterm review process would highlight progress or challenges in the implementation of Montevideo Programme IV and serve as a platform for those in environmental law and the international law community to enhance global partnerships and strengthen the institutional architecture for achieving environmental sustainability. Annexed to the report were the programme areas of Montevideo Programme IV.

Implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.5] of the UNEP Executive Director on actions taken towards implementation of paragraph 13 of UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2, in which the Council committed to progressively consolidating UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi. Implementation of that decision took place in the context of strengthening and upgrading UNEP, according to subparagraph (g) of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document “The future we want” [YUN 2012, p. 782], and General Assembly resolution 67/213 [YUN 2012, p. 1000]. The report also provided

recommendations for the 2016–2017 programme of work to strengthen the regional presence of UNEP and consolidate its headquarters functions in Nairobi.

The Assembly also had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/16] by the UNEP secretariat with information related to the consolidation of headquarters functions that supplemented and supported the above report of the Executive Director.

Governance, work programme and budget

Programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and proposed programme for 2016–2017

At its first session, the Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/7/Add.1] of the UNEP Executive Director on the proposed revised biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015, in response to Governing Council decision 27/13 [YUN 2013, p. 991]. The report presented changes in indicator targets against expected accomplishments and in accountability for the delivery of outputs in the programme of work that resulted from changes in the structure of UNEP. Before the Assembly was also a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/24] by the Executive Director on changes to the programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and changes to the strategic framework for the biennium, which the Committee on Programme and Coordination decided in 2013.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/14)], having considered the approved medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and the approved programme of work and budget for 2014–2015, approved the revised programme of work and budget for 2014–2015, which took into account the implications of the level of resources from the regular UN budget to UNEP in the amount of \$34.9 million.

The Environmental Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/7] on the proposed updated biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017, reflecting the changes made following consultations during the year with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The programme of work contained units of measure for each indicator, estimates of baselines and targets, a theory of change and outputs that showed what the organization must deliver to achieve its expected accomplishments and fulfil its objectives. It was designed to ensure coherence and continuity with the programme of work for the first half of the medium-term strategy period, 2014–2017, as well as to continue to build on the strengthened regional presence of UNEP. The envisaged budget for the programme of work totalled \$687 million, including a programmed allocation from the regular UN budget of \$49.7 million. The report included narratives on seven subprogrammes: climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; chemicals and waste; resource efficiency

and sustainable consumption and production; and environment under review.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/15)], having considered the approved medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and the proposed programme of work and budget for 2016–2017, approved the programme of work for 2016–2017 and the appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$271 million, of which a maximum of \$122 million was allocated to defraying post costs.

The Environment Assembly also had before it reports by the Executive Director on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for 2014–2015 [UNEP/EA.1/INF/17] and the revision of UNEP financial rules [UNEP/EA.1/6], and a note by the UNEP secretariat on programme performance [UNEP/EA.1/INF/6].

Trust funds

The Executive Director submitted a report on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions [UNEP/EA.1/8] noting that UNEP administered both single-donor and multi-donor trust funds. In the case of the former, each designated donor contribution was managed as a separate trust fund; whereas for multi-donor trust funds, contributions from multiple donors were managed in a combined pool of funds. The primary multi-donor fund for UNEP was the Environment Fund. Donor requests for the establishment of single-donor trust funds had led to the creation of a large number of relatively small trust funds whose transaction costs were relatively high owing to varying donor requirements with regard to monitoring and reporting. UNEP-administered trust funds had grown over time from one in 1972 to 124 in December 2013. During the biennium 2012–2013, contributions to the Environment Fund were \$152 million compared to \$773 million for trust funds, excluding the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The proliferation of single-donor funds marked a change in the approach of UNEP funding, with increasing levels of contributions earmarked for specific initiatives. Multi-donor trust funds enhanced effectiveness by reducing transaction costs and mitigating the high levels of risk inherent in the management of single-donor and earmarked trust funds. The approved programme of work for 2014–2015 aimed to move increasingly from earmarked resources to the Environment Fund, guided by the member States' collective programmatic decisions.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/16)] considered the report of the Executive Director as well as requests that UNEP carry out the functions of secretariats for other bodies related to its work. In support of the UNEP programme of work, the Assembly approved 7 trust funds (5 general, 2 technical) established since the twenty-seventh (2013) session of the UNEP Governing Council, and 16 trust funds (5

general, 11 technical) whose extension was subject to receipt by the UNEP Executive Director of requests from the relevant Governments or contracting parties. In support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds, the Assembly approved 2 trust funds established since the Governing Council's twenty-seventh session, and 23 trust funds subject to the receipt of requests from the relevant Governments or parties.

Board of Auditors report

In June [A/69/5/Add.7], the Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly its report and financial report and audited financial statements of UNEP for the biennium ended 31 December 2013. The report showed total income of \$943.4 million and expenditure of \$751.4 million, an increase in income of 17.8 per cent and a decrease in expenditure by 7.1 per cent compared to the previous biennium. UNEP also administered 14 multilateral environmental agreements, the income (\$214.8 million) and the expenditure (\$177.7 million) of which were included in the consolidated financial statements. The overall excess of income over expenditure was \$192 million. The Trust Fund for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer had income of \$266.2 million and expenditure of \$298.7 million in the biennium, and a reserve balance of \$322.5 million. The report outlined key findings related to budgetary controls; procurement management; preparedness for implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and follow-up of previous recommendations. The Board made recommendations related to the monitoring of project budget implementation; the strengthening of procurement planning and contract management; and IPSAS implementation.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the report of the Board of Auditors and financial report and audited financial statements of UNEP would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Additional reports

Other documents submitted to the first session of the Environment Assembly were reports by the Executive Director on the results of the sixty-eighth (2013) session of the General Assembly of relevance to the Environment Assembly [UNEP/EA.1/INF/3 & Add.1] and the status of the Environment Fund and other sources of UNEP funding for the biennium 2012–2013 [UNEP/EA.1/INF/5], and notes by the UNEP secretariat on changes in the status of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment [UNEP/EA.1/INF/10], and progress on the Eye on Earth initiative [UNEP/EA.1/INF/11].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.7] adopted **resolution 69/223** without vote [agenda item 19 (g)].

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000 and the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling its resolutions 67/213 of 21 December 2012 and 68/215 of 20 December 2013,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles,

Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled "The future we want", and noting the follow-up on paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (b), of the outcome document, including through General Assembly resolution 67/213,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome document of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Committed also to enhancing the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations

coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997(XXVII), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

Reaffirming the commitment, as contained in the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, to, inter alia, ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, and takes note of the report on the session and the resolutions and decisions contained therein;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme will participate, as appropriate, in the elaboration of and the summit on the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Reiterates* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard calls for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building adopted by the Programme;

5. *Also reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically based and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels;

6. *Notes* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide options to secure the participation of developing countries in the Environment Assembly;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, and also recalls its resolution 68/248 of 27 December 2013;

8. *Also recalls* the decision contained in paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288;

9. *Urges* all Member States and other stakeholders in a position to do so to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund, notes the need for continued efforts

to broaden the donor base and mobilize resources from all sources, including stakeholders, and welcomes the increased support received in this regard;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme".

Other matters

Cooperation with UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/84** of 5 December (see p. 733), requested UNEP to continue to support the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and the dissemination of its findings to the Assembly, the scientific community and the public. The Assembly encouraged UNEP to maintain the Committee's funding, and encouraged Member States to make voluntary contributions to the UNEP general trust fund established to support the Committee's work.

UNEP Year Book

The *UNEP Year Book 2014: Emerging issues in our global environment* provided information on excess nitrogen in the environment; the emergence of infectious diseases; fish and shellfish farming in marine ecosystems; illegal trade in wildlife; methane from hydrates; the potential of citizen science; air pollution, cited as the leading cause of environmentally related deaths; plastic debris in the ocean; securing soil carbon benefits; and rapid change in the Arctic. A key message of the *Year Book* was that access to timely, reliable environmental information from around the world would be increasingly required to identify emerging issues and develop effective actions and policies in response.

Global Environment Facility

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) united 183 member Governments in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to address environmental issues. The GEF partnership comprised, among others, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. GEF served as the financial mechanism for the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [YUN 1992, p. 683], the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [ibid., p. 681], the 1994 United

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], and the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [YUN 2001, p. 971].

Environment Assembly. The Environment Assembly had before it a June report [UNEP/EA.1/9] of the Executive Director describing amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, pursuant to their approval in May by the Fifth GEF Assembly. Under the amendments, GEF would operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and its responsibilities to the conventions it already served were clarified; the “ozone layer depletion” and “persistent organic pollutants” focal areas were replaced with a “chemicals and waste” focal area; the eligibility criteria for accessing GEF funding were updated; and the name of the GEF Evaluation Office was changed to the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. A note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/21] by the UNEP secretariat provided supplementary information to the report of the Executive Director, including a joint summary of the Chairs of the forty-fifth (2013) meeting of the GEF Council; the Council’s, proposed amendments to the Instrument; the Chairs summary of the Fifth GEF Assembly; and correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of GEF addressed to the UNEP Executive Director.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/17)] took note of the report of the Executive Director and adopted the amendments to the Instrument, pursuant to the decision of the Fifth GEF Assembly in May.

Annual Performance Report. The GEF *Annual Performance Report 2014* provided an overview of the performance of GEF activities with regard to project outcomes and sustainability, factors affecting attainment of project results, and the quality of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) arrangements. The report covered 918 projects that represented \$4.07 billion in GEF funding and \$19.13 billion in realized co-financing. That total included 156 recently completed projects in the 2014 annual performance report cohort that accounted for \$803.8 million in GEF funding, and 111 projects completed prior to 2005 that were being reported on for the first time. Inclusion of the latter data allowed the GEF Independent Evaluation Office to report on the results of the GEF project portfolio by replenishment period, which provided insights on performance trends. The report concluded that 79 per cent of projects in the 2014 cohort, which accounted for 81 per cent of the funding, had outcome ratings in the satisfactory range. Sixty-three per cent of projects in the 2014 cohort, which accounted for 62 per cent of the funding, had sustainability of outcome ratings of moderately likely or above, and the quality of implementation and execution ratings were in the

satisfactory range for approximately 80 per cent of all completed projects. There had also been a steady rise in the median ratio of promised co-financing to GEF grant over the replenishment phases, with GEF partners having largely met or exceeded project co-financing expectations, but further conclusions highlighted weaknesses related to M&E project design, intervention strategies and overly ambitious project objectives.

Reports to UNFCCC. In May [FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.3], GEF reported to the fortieth (2014) session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation on progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer. The report reviewed relevant UNFCCC guidance; implementation of the Poznan Strategic and Long-Term Programmes on Technology Transfer; and GEF consultation with the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

In its report [FCCC/CP/2014/2 & Add.1] to the twentieth (2014) session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (see p. 1181), GEF described its responses to the guidance provided by the Conference at its nineteenth (2013) session [YUN 2013, p. 995]; the role of GEF support in achieving climate benefits; and GEF initiatives in the fields of climate change, chemicals and waste, and natural resource management.

Report to CBD. In July [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/14/Add.1], the GEF Executive Secretary reported to the twelfth (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1185). The report outlined GEF activities on biological diversity between July 2012 and June 2014, including those carried out in response to guidance received from the eleventh (2012) session of the Conference of the Parties [YUN 2012, p. 1006]. GEF approved 167 projects supporting implementation of the CBD and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, representing 46 per cent of the resources allocated to the biodiversity focal area during the GEF-5 (2010–2014) programming period.

International conventions and mechanisms

In response to resolutions 68/212 [YUN 2013, p. 995], 68/213 [ibid., p. 1001] and 68/214 [ibid., p. 998], the Secretary-General, in a September note [A/69/317], transmitted reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see p. 1181); the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (see p. 1183); and the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1185)—collectively known as the “Rio Conventions”.

Joint Liaison Group. The thirteenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (New York, 24 September) discussed potential lines of

cooperation within the Group for 2014 and 2015, in the context of joint indicator work. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification suggested the adoption of three biophysical indicators for which data already existed and follow-up would be relatively easy. It was agreed that the Group should focus on issues where collective advances could be made, while bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of the Rio Conventions. The Group agreed to cooperate to promote the adoption of the joint indicators during upcoming meetings of the Rio Conventions.

Convention on climate change

As at 31 December, 195 States and the European Union (EU) were parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which opened for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938]. South Sudan acceded during the year.

At year's end, 191 States and the EU were parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1048], which entered into force in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1146]. There were 29 parties to the 2006 amendment to annex B of the Protocol [YUN 2006, p. 1220], which had not yet entered into force. South Africa deposited its instrument of ratification in 2014.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/212, the Secretary-General, in his September note [A/69/317], transmitted to the Assembly the report of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention [YUN 2013, p. 995] and the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol [ibid.], both of which took place in Warsaw, Poland from 11–23 November 2013. In Warsaw, the Conference made progress towards a new global agreement and major outcomes were the establishment of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impact under the Cancún Adaptation Framework [YUN 2010, p. 1019]; the adoption of a set of decisions related to finance, including long-term climate finance and the Green Climate Fund; adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus; adoption of the modalities and procedures of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and its Advisory Board; and the adoption of general guidelines in the measurement, reporting and verification of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country parties. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol considered the status report presented by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the instruments of acceptance received by the Depositary in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. It also provided further guid-

ance in respect of article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol, on joint implementation, and in relation to the clean development mechanism and the anticipated revision of the mechanism's modalities and procedures in 2015.

Conference of parties. The twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Lima, Peru, 1–14 December) [FCCC/CP/2014/10 & Add.1–3] adopted 24 decisions. Among the main outcomes of the Lima Conference were the Lima Call for Climate Action on further advancing the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action towards achieving an ambitious and meaningful global agreement in 2015, which included an annex with elements of a draft negotiating text; progress on the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including agreement on the work plan and the composition of its executive committee; and the Lima work programme on gender, which represented progress since the decision on gender reached by the Parties in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1003].

The decisions adopted by the Conference concerned, among other topics, national adaptation plans; the report of the Adaptation Committee; long-term climate finance; the reports to the Conference of the Standing Committee on Finance, the Green Climate Fund, and the Global Environment Facility; the fifth review of the Financial Mechanism; further guidance to the Least Developed Countries Fund; the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; guidelines on the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention; training programmes for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and of biennial reports and national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention; the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising; the forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures; and parties included in Annex I to the Convention whose special circumstances were recognized by the Conference.

Meeting of Protocol parties. The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol [FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/9 & Add.1], held concurrently with the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, adopted eight decisions. The Conference of the Parties considered the status report presented by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the instruments of acceptance received by the Depositary in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. The President of the Conference noted that the Doha Amendment required an additional 123 instruments of acceptance to enter into force. Other decisions concerned the Adaptation Fund Board and the Adapta-

tion Fund; the completion date of the expert review process under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period; guidance related to the clean development mechanism; guidance on the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol; synergy related to accreditation under the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol; and the outcome of the work programme on modalities and procedures for possible additional land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the clean development mechanism.

Subsidiary bodies. During the year, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice held its fortieth (Bonn, Germany, 4–15 June) [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2 & Add.1] and forty-first (Lima, Peru, 1–6 December) [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5] sessions. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation also held its fortieth (Bonn, 4–15 June) [FCCC/SBI/2014/8 & Add.1] and forty-first (Lima, 1–8 December) [FCCC/SBI/2014/21] sessions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.4], adopted **resolution 69/220** without vote [agenda item 19 (d)].

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012 and 68/212 of 20 December 2013 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling further that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, and that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcomes of the thirteenth to nineteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to ninth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the

Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (samoa) Pathway,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Notes* the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, expressed in its decision 2/CP.18, to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Poland in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013, and in particular its invitation, in its decision 1/CP.19, to all parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties towards achieving the objective of the Convention, as set out in its article 2, and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions;

4. *Notes* the reiteration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall be guided by the principles of the Convention;

5. *Also notes* the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action further elaborate elements for a draft negotiating text, taking into consideration its work, including its work on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013;

7. *Also takes note* of decision 2/CP.19, taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its nineteenth session, and resolves to work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts;

8. *Notes* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Peru of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014;

10. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

Convention to combat desertification

As at 31 December, 194 States and the EU were parties to the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 958]. Canada withdrew from the Convention and South Sudan acceded during the year.

In his September note on the implementation of UN environmental conventions [A/69/317], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Convention secretariat. The report reviewed the major outcomes of the eleventh (2013) session of the Conference of the Parties of relevance to the General Assembly; follow-up to the outcomes of the eleventh (2013) session of the

Conference of the Parties of relevance to General Assembly processes, including the establishment of an intergovernmental working group and a science-policy interface mechanism; UN secretariat leadership dealing with desertification, land degradation and drought issues; desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; the interim report of the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945) submitted to the General Assembly; the discussion by the Open Working Group on possible goals and targets; celebrations of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; collaboration with GEF; and exchanges regarding the next (2015) meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification

In response to resolution 64/201 [YUN 2009, p. 1025], in which the General Assembly designated the UNCCD secretariat as the focal point for the 2010–2020 United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/311] on the implementation of the Decade, highlighting the initiatives of the secretariat, including efforts to carry out activities collaboratively with Member States, stakeholders and other UN entities. Activities to implement the Decade, with the objective of enhancing awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought issues, included the organization of global and regional launches of the Decade; side events at conferences; publications; web-based outreach; support to the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; and joint observances and other special initiatives. The report concluded with lessons learned and recommendations for continuing to advance the objectives of the Decade.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.5], adopted **resolution 69/221** without vote [agenda item 19 (e)].

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/213 of 20 December 2013, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled

"The future we want", in which the Conference, inter alia, recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, stressed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension that continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, also stressed the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, expressed deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and called for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of this, for striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, which should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources,

Noting, in this regard, that combating land degradation, desertification and drought, including through sustainable land management, can contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce the current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions, characterized by recurrent and long spells of drought, flooding and increasing frequency and severity of dust-storms and sandstorms, and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the restoration of degraded lands in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting that avoiding additional land degradation, especially in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, while restoring degraded land, is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

Noting also that desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change are closely related and that, if not addressed, they would pose a serious challenge to sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries,

Expressing concern about the fact that currently land degradation, including desertification, affects nearly 2 billion hectares of land, with many regions experiencing more frequent, prolonged periods of drought or flooding, leading to the loss of fertile topsoil through erosion, and that as land becomes degraded it loses the capacity to support livelihoods, which may influence communities to seek out other arable land, including forests and wetlands,

Noting that degraded land, if recovered, would, inter alia, contribute to restoring natural resources, thus potentially improving food security and nutrition in the affected countries, and in the process could, inter alia, contribute to the absorption of carbon emissions,

Noting also the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, including their economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, within their respective mandates, in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to establish a science-policy interface to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification, land degradation and drought,

Recognizing the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2015,

Recalling its resolution 64/201 of 21 December 2009, in which it designated the secretariat of the Convention as the focal point of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020),

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate, with the assistance of the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

3. *Reaffirms its resolve*, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas;

4. *Encourages* the coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders in enhancing the resilience and harnessing the potential of the affected countries;

5. *Reiterates* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development has reaffirmed women's vital

role and their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, and in this regard invites donors and international organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions, regional banks and major groups, including the private sector, to fully integrate their commitments and their considerations on gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure the participation of women and effective gender mainstreaming in their decision-making in combating desertification, land degradation and drought;

6. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders, including the private sector, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of those stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008–2018);

7. *Stresses* the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention, and in this respect invites the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, within their respective mandates, to collaborate on their activities whenever they are related to desertification, land degradation and drought;

8. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

9. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);

10. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Convention and encourages Member States, regional commissions, multilateral agencies and other stakeholders to support the secretariat of the Convention in organizing special activities in observance of the Decade;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Convention on Biological Diversity

As at 31 December, 193 States and the EU were parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 810]. South Sudan acceded to the Convention during the year.

At year's end, the number of parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973] and entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051], rose to 167 States and the EU. Iraq and the United Arab Emirates acceded during the year.

In his September note [A/69/317] on the implementation of UN environmental conventions, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the secretariat of the Convention, submitted in accordance with resolution 68/214 [YUN 2013, p. 998]. The report recapitulated the preparations for the twelfth (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (see below) and for the seventh (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (see below). It also discussed progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and reviewed activities conducted in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including for the International Day for Biodiversity, observed on 22 May in over 71 countries under the theme of “Island Biodiversity”, and for the sustainable development goals, with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity in the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Conference of parties. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6–17 October) [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29] adopted the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, which called for further integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda. The Conference also adopted 35 decisions, of which the first six together formed the Pyeongchang road map for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Conference noted the conclusions of the fourth (2014) edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-4), which contained a mid-term review of progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to identify ways and means to address the key scientific and technical needs related to implementation of the Strategic Plan and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on those matters before the thirteenth (2016) meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Subsequent deci-

sions focused on mainstreaming gender considerations; stakeholder engagement; biodiversity and tourism development; article 8(j) (traditional knowledge, innovations and practices); access and benefit-sharing; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020; invasive alien species; sustainable use of biodiversity; ecosystem conservation and restoration; biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction; biodiversity and human health; marine and coastal biodiversity; synthetic biology; the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020; administration of the Convention and the budget for its Trust Funds; and the dates and venues of the thirteenth (2016), fourteenth (2018) and fifteenth (2020) meetings of the Conference of the Parties. On improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention, the Conference decided to hold its future ordinary meetings within a two-week period that would also include the meetings of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the meetings of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It also established the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which would meet in each intersessional period and serve the Convention as well as its respective Protocols.

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held its eighteenth meeting (Pyeongchang, 6–17 October) [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/3], at which it adopted 14 recommendations for consideration by the twelfth (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (see above).

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Pyeongchang, 29 September–3 October) [UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/16] adopted 13 decisions concerning compliance with the Protocol; the operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House; assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (article 35); contained use of living modified organisms; matters related to the financial mechanism and resources; the report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Protocol and on budgetary matters; handling, transport, packaging and identification (article 18); unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures (article 17); the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress; risk assessment and risk management (articles 15 and 16); socioeconomic considerations; and monitoring and reporting (article 33). The Conference also decided to undertake the

third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol at its eighth (2016) meeting, in combination with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (see above).

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing

After receiving its fiftieth instrument of ratification on 14 July, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization entered into force, 90 days later, on 12 October. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (Pyeongchang, 13–17 October) [UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/1/10] adopted 13 decisions to advance implementation of the Protocol. The Conference adopted modalities for the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, which provided a platform where Parties could submit, exchange and update the information required under the Protocol, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to implement the Clearing-house and promote its use. Subsequent decisions concerned the rules of procedure for meetings; monitoring and reporting; cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance with the Protocol and to address cases of non-compliance; model contractual clauses, voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and/or standards; the financial mechanism; resource mobilization; measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development; measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefitsharing mechanism; improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and the Protocols; and the programme budget for the biennium following the Protocol's entry into force.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/468/Add.6], adopted **resolution 69/222** without vote [agenda item 19 (f)].

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010, 66/202 of 22 December 2011, 67/212 of 21 December 2012, 68/214 of 20 December 2013 and its previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannes-

burg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals convened by the President of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein,

Reaffirming also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles,

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have 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 do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

at its twelfth meeting entitled “Article 8 (j) and related provisions”,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation of biological diversity,

Recognizing also the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development, promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should contribute to tangible benefits for local people and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction, recognizing further the economic, social and environmental impacts of poaching and of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, emphasizing in this regard the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, and further stressing the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also that 91 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 56 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Convention have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya Protocol, and noting in this regard that the Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014,

Noting further that the Nagoya Protocol, the objective of which is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, contributes to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;

Noting that 50 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 26 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Noting also that 193 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that

167 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, as well as decision XI/3, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of preliminary targets by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XI/4, adopted at its eleventh meeting,

Noting the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, all held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 12 October 2014;

3. *Takes note* of the holding and outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2014;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, adopted at the high-level segment of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

5. *Encourages* the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention and the Protocol, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede their full implementation;

6. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

7. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties", and also takes note of the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the secretariat of the Convention, parties to the Convention

and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, in particular for developing countries;

9. *Urges* parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention;

10. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention, including through addressing implementation gaps, in particular with regard to article 15 of the Convention;

12. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the parties to the Convention;

13. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be mobilized from all sources, and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, and in this regard welcomes the decision of the parties to the Convention on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 from a variety of sources, including national and international resource mobilization, international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms, and takes note of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;

14. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

15. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol, and invites the Executive Secretary and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue supporting capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;

16. *Takes note* of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

17. *Stresses* the importance of continued consideration of the issue of biodiversity, and encourages Member States and all stakeholders to give due consideration to this issue in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

18. *Takes note* of the second plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which aims to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers;

19. *Stresses* the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets, invites them to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities, and in this regard stresses the importance of the ongoing work of the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity;

20. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio conventions) and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

21. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, at its seventieth session, on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 196 States and the EU were parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804], which entered into force in 1988 [YUN 1988, p. 810].

The number of parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was

adopted in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 686], included 196 States and the EU. Parties to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol [YUN 1990, p. 522] numbered 196 States and the EU. Parties to the 1992 Amendment [YUN 1992, p. 684] numbered 196 States and the EU. Parties to the 1997 Amendment [YUN 1997, p. 1049] numbered 196 States and the EU, with Libya and Saudi Arabia becoming parties in 2014. Parties to the 1999 Amendment [YUN 1999, p. 986] numbered 196 States and the EU, with Kazakhstan, Libya, Mauritania and Saudi Arabia becoming parties during the year.

Conference of parties and Meeting of Protocol parties. The combined tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and twenty-sixth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Paris, 17–21 November) [UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/7-UNEP/OzL.Pro.26/10] adopted 22 decisions concerning, among other topics, the status of ratification of the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments to the Montreal Protocol; the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention; financial reports and budgets for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol; essential-use nominations for controlled substances for 2015; the essential-use exemption for chlorofluorocarbon 113 for aerospace applications in the Russian Federation; an essential-use exemption for laboratory and analytical uses for 2015 in China; the global laboratory and analytical-use exemption; critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2015 and 2016; availability of recovered, recycled or reclaimed halons; measures to facilitate the monitoring of trade in hydrochlorofluorocarbons and substituting substances; response to the report by the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel on information on alternatives to ozone-depleting substances; 2015–2017 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund; extension of the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism to the 2015–2017 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund; data and information provided by the parties in accordance with Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol; compliance by specific State parties with their protocol obligations; membership in the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, the Implementation Committee and the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund; and the dates and location of the twenty-seventh (2015) and twenty-eighth (2016) meetings of the Parties.

Subsidiary bodies. During the year, the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held its thirty-fourth meeting (Paris, 14–18 July) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/WG.1/34/6]; and the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol held its fifty-second (Paris, 9–10 July) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/ImpCom/52/4] and fifty-third (Paris, 14–15 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/ImpCom/53/4] meetings.

Convention on air pollution

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution [YUN 1979, p. 710], which entered into force in 1983 [YUN 1983, p. 645], remained at 50 States and the EU. Eight protocols to the Convention dealt with the programme for monitoring and evaluation of pollutants in Europe (1984); the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent (1985); the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes (1988); the control of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes (1991); the further reduction of sulphur emissions (1994); heavy metals (1998); persistent organic pollutants (1998); and the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (1999). Amendments to the protocol on persistent organic pollutants were adopted in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1018].

The thirty-third session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 8–11 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/127 & Add.1] adopted eight decisions, including those concerning the improvement of guidance for adjustments under the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them; establishment of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues; leadership of the Task Force of Reactive Nitrogen; and the compliance by specific States parties with their protocol obligations.

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Implementation Committee held its thirty-third (Oslo, Norway, 26–28 May) and thirty-fourth (Geneva, 8–10 September) sessions. It submitted its seventeenth report [ECE/EB.AIR/2014/2], which contained information on the Committee's 2014 activities and recommendations related to the compliance of States parties with their reporting obligations. An additional report [ECE/EB.AIR/2014/3] provided supplementary information to the seventeenth report.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The fifth joint meeting to enhance cooperation and coordination between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions (Geneva, 26–27 November) focused on preparing the performance and sustainability report of the regional centres for the consideration of the Conferences of the Parties in 2015, as well as on enhancing the regional delivery of technical assistance for implementation of the chemicals and wastes conventions by capitalizing on existing and emerging opportunities.

Basel Convention

As at 31 December, 180 States and the EU were parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control

of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], which entered into force in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 685]. The 1995 Amendment to the Convention [YUN 1995, p. 1333], not yet in force, had been ratified, accepted or approved by 80 parties, with Benin, Colombia and the Congo becoming parties during the year. The number of parties to the 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal [YUN 1999, p. 998], not yet in force, remained at 11.

Subsidiary bodies. The Open-ended Working Group on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal held its ninth meeting (Geneva, 16–19 September) [UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/15]. The Working Group adopted 10 decisions, including those concerning follow-up to the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes; options for the Working Group's operations; technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants or mercury; technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used electrical and electronic equipment; national reporting; consultation with the Committee for Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Convention; the provision of further legal clarity; the partnership for Action on Computing Equipment; and the work programme for 2016–2017.

The Implementation and Compliance Committee held its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 22–24 September) [UNEP/CHW/CC.11/16], at which it conducted a review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention. It also considered and adopted 13 decisions on specific submissions aimed at resolving States parties' implementation and compliance difficulties with regard to their national reporting obligations.

Stockholm Convention

As at 31 December, 177 States and the EU were parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1066].

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee held its tenth meeting (Rome, Italy, 27–30 October) [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10 & Add.1, 2]. It adopted seven decisions concerning pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters; decabromodiphenyl ether; dicofol; the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to Annex B to the Convention; guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts, perfluorooct-

tane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals; coordination and collaboration with other scientific bodies; and effective participation in the work of the Committee.

Rotterdam Convention

As at 31 December, 153 States and the EU were parties to the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1063].

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Chemical Review Committee held its tenth meeting (Rome, Italy, 22–24 October) [UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.10/10]. It adopted six decisions on methamidophos, fenthion, polychlorinated naphthalenes, short-chained chlorinated paraffins, tributyltin compounds, and coordination and collaboration with other scientific bodies. The Committee adopted draft decision guidance documents for methamidophos and fenthion that would be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties for consideration. It also recommended that short-chained chlorinated paraffins and tributyltin compounds be listed in Annex III to the Convention as industrial chemicals.

Environmental topics

The atmosphere

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (ipcc) held its thirty-eighth (Yokohama, Japan, 25–29 March), thirty-ninth (Berlin, Germany, 7–12 April) and fortieth (Copenhagen, Denmark, 27–31 October) sessions.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Chair invited the Panel to accept the actions of the tenth session of the Working Group II. The Panel accepted the Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report.

At its thirty-ninth session, the Panel approved decisions related to the IPCC trust fund and programme and budget, the admission of observer organizations and the future work of IPCC. The Panel also accepted the Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group III contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report.

At its fortieth session, the Panel approved the budget for 2015 and adopted other budget decisions that were annexed to the session report. The Panel approved the draft Summary for Policymakers of the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report, and adopted the draft longer report of the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report and admitted three organizations as observers to the IPCC. The Panel also discussed the future work of IPCC, communication

and outreach activities, committee reports, progress reports, and matters related to UNFCCC and other international bodies.

Marine ecosystems

Sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/205 [YUN 2012, p. 1014], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/314] on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. The report described national- and regional-level activities to address marine pollution; the sustainable management of shared coastal and marine resources; climate change and disaster risk reduction; social and economic development; sustainable oceans governance; and the development of human capacity. The report also covered the activities of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held under the theme of “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”. The report discussed the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a “special area in the context of sustainable development”, and concluded that Member States of the region continued to work collaboratively on behalf of their shared resource--the Caribbean Sea--including by addressing the economic, social and environmental aspects of development.

Annexed to the Secretary-General’s report was the report of the Association of Caribbean States on progress made in the implementation of resolution 67/205, which discussed the institutionalization of and international support for its Commission on the Caribbean Sea; progress with regard to relevant international agreements; programmes to promote fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation; disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery; and legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/216** without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,

the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008, 65/155 of 20 December 2010 and 67/205 of 21 December 2012,

Taking into account also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the potential increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the safe transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity of and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote the integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the significant progress made on regional ocean governance through the formulation of the strategic action programme of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

Recalling the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preserva-

tion and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance their support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

4. *Also welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

5. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

8. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to the relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, which entered into force in May 2011;

10. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

12. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, and urges the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide assistance and support in addressing this issue in the region;

13. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to actively support the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States for the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

15. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

17. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

18. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action

approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

19. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such, without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

Other matters

Oil slick in Lebanon

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/206 [YUN 2013, p. 1010], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/313] reviewing progress in implementing resolutions 61/194 [YUN 2006, p. 1215], 62/188 [YUN 2007, p. 1053], 63/211 [YUN 2008, p. 1150], 64/195 [YUN 2009, p. 1011], 65/147 [YUN 2010, p. 1015], 66/192 [YUN 2011, p. 991], 67/201 [YUN 2012, p. 1017] and 68/206 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores that resulted from the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of oil storage tanks in Lebanon following the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the paramilitary group Hizbullah in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 574]. Some 15,000 tons of fuel oil were released into the Mediterranean Sea, contaminating about 150 kilometres of coastline in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The report discussed actions taken to address the impacts of the spill and to measure and quantify the environmental damage sustained by Lebanon, which amounted to \$856.4 million. The Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, NGOs and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon, particularly for rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast. He encouraged States and the international donor community to make contributions to the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, hosted by the Lebanon Recovery Fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/212** by recorded vote (170-6-3) [agenda item 19].

Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009, 65/147 of 20 December 2010, 66/192 of 22 December 2011, 67/201 of 21 December 2012 and 68/206 of 20 December 2013 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference, in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of El-Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195, 65/147, 66/192, 67/201 and 68/206,

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 68/206, it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the Assembly has yet to be implemented,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Acknowledging also the conclusions on measuring and quantifying the environmental damage set out in the report of the Secretary-General,

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination

Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reiterates*, for the ninth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese El-Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health in the country;

4. *Acknowledges* the conclusions in the report of the Secretary-General, in which he stated that studies show that the value of the damage to Lebanon amounted to 856.4 million United States dollars in 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations involved in the initial assessment of the relevant environmental damage to undertake, within existing resources, a further study, building on, inter alia, the initial work of the World Bank presented in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by neighbouring countries;

5. *Reiterates its request* in this regard to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon for the aforementioned damage and to other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Resto-

ration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly and adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at El-Jiyeh electric power plant;

8. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for the rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast and in the broader recovery efforts, and stated that such international effort should be intensified, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery, reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/212:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Tonga.

Harmony with nature

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/216 [YUN 2013, p. 1011], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/322] on harmony with nature. The report addressed the social dimension of sustainable development. It examined how the holistic relationship that indigenous peoples have had with Mother Earth since ancient times had paved the way in the modern world for Earth system science, in which scientists view the Earth as a system that was indivisible, in an endless continuum and in which no single element took precedence over another. The report discussed the concept of “living well” in harmony with nature as a scalable paradigm from the developing world; Earth system science and governance; and Earth-based economics. The Secretary-General concluded that humanity must intensify its efforts to restore a healthy environment for present and future generations, where human activity took place in balance with the Earth’s offerings, and with reciprocity, dignity and respect for nature.

To commemorate International Mother Earth Day [YUN 2009, p. 1037], the General Assembly hosted an interactive dialogue on harmony with nature (New York, 22 April), focusing on the theme “The promotion of a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.8], adopted **resolution 69/224** without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling also its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010, 66/204 of 22 December 2011, 67/214 of 21 December 2012 and 68/216 of 20 December 2013 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling further the 1982 World Charter for Nature,

Noting the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, held on 22 April 2014, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day, on the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social

and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature,

Recognizing that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and expressing the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature,

Noting that, in promoting a holistic approach to achieve sustainable development in harmony with nature, Earth system science plays a significant role,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation, potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth systems, with the aim of promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth,

Taking note of the Peoples’ World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,

Recognizing that a number of countries consider Mother Earth the source of all life and nourishment, and that these countries consider Mother Earth and humankind an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings,

Noting that in recent years there have been many initiatives on sustainable development governance, including policy documents on living well in harmony with nature,

Taking note of the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts, along with those of Governments and private sector organizations, to devise more sustainable models and methods for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the fifth report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Invites* Member States to consider existing studies and reports on Harmony with Nature, including the follow-up to the discussions at the interactive dialogues of the General Assembly, such as the dialogue held on 22 April 2014 on the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold an inclusive and interactive dialogue, at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day in April 2015, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to advance discussions on Harmony with Nature in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the issue of Harmony with Nature in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Recalls* its resolutions requesting that the Secretary-General establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day, and in this regard invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this trust fund once it is established;

6. *Also recalls* the launching of the Harmony with Nature website on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by the secretariat of the Conference and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make use of the existing website maintained by the Division to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature, being undertaken to advance the integration of interdisciplinary scientific work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge and on existing national legislation;

7. *Calls for* holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

8. *Invites* States:

(a) To further build up a knowledge network in order to advance a holistic conceptualization to identify different economic approaches that reflect the drivers and values of living in harmony with nature, relying on current scientific information to achieve sustainable development, and to facilitate the support and recognition of the fundamental interconnections between humanity and nature;

(b) To promote harmony with the Earth, as found in indigenous cultures, and learn from them, and to provide support for and promote efforts being made from the national level down to the local community level to reflect the protection of nature;

9. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

10. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress, which, based on a stocktaking exercise of current national, regional and international practices to measure progress, will conduct a technical review of existing efforts in this area, with a view to identifying best practices and to facilitating the sharing of knowledge, especially for the benefit of developing countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the sub-item entitled "Harmony with Nature" at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the item on harmony with nature would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Sustainable tourism

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/233** of 19 December (see p. 954), recognized that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, created opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural areas by encouraging tourists as well as indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage. The Assembly encouraged Governments to use sustainable tourism to support environmental protection and the sustainable use of biodiversity and to base tourism on clear evidence of market demand and on a sound economic and environmental foundation. It requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its seventy-first (2016) session, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including recommendations on promoting ecotourism as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Human settlements

UN-Habitat

Governing Council

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/206 [YUN 2001, p. 987], the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(UN-Habitat), which met biennially, did not meet in 2014. The twenty-fifth session of the Council would take place in 2015.

Election. On 17 July, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/421**, on the proposal of the Secretary-General [A/68/915], re-elected Joan Clos (Spain) as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for a term of office beginning on 18 October 2014 and ending on 31 December 2017.

Subsidiary body. The Committee of Permanent Representatives, the intersessional body of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, met four times in 2014, on 19 March [HSP/CPR/53/L.1], 18 June [HSP/CPR/54/L.1], 27 August [HSP/CPR/55/L.1] and 3 December [HSP/CPR/56/L.1]. It considered, among other matters, the financial status of UN-Habitat, progress on the implementation of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan, and preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III).

Board of Auditors report

In June [A/69/5/Add.9 & Corr.1], the Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly its report on the UN-Habitat financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013. Total income amounted to \$378 million, a decrease of \$52.9 million, or 12.3 per cent, over the previous financial period. Total expenditure amounted to \$348.6 million, a decrease of \$78.2 million, or 18.3 per cent, compared to the previous period. The excess of income over expenditure totalled \$29.4 million, representing an increase of \$25.4 million over the previous biennium. The Board noted that the excess of income over expenditure had been declining steadily since 2006–2007 but rose in 2012–2013. As at the end of the biennium, the level of cash held was \$207 million, representing a 9.3 per cent decrease over the balance of \$228.3 million held at 31 December 2011. UN-Habitat adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) from 1 January 2014 but did not meet the deadline of 31 March 2014 for the preparation of actual IPSAS-compliant opening balances.

The Board recommended, among other measures, that UN-Habitat closely monitor project budget implementation; set up and document a clear monitoring and assurance framework for the use and accountability of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations funds; and prioritize and expedite the process of data cleansing so that IPSAS opening balances would be finalized in advance of the preparation of dry-run financial statements.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the item of the financial reports and audited financial statements, and report of the Board of Auditors of UN-Habitat, would

remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN-Habitat activities

In 2014, UN-Habitat continued to implement its work programme in line with Governing Council resolutions and the goals of the UN system and the international community. Under the 2014–2019 strategic plan, approved by the Council in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1015], UN-Habitat focused on urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and cross-cutting issues of gender, youth, climate change and human rights.

During the year, UN-Habitat adopted a more strategic and integrated approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities of cities and human settlements. The new approach was based on two premises: the empirically verified positive correlation between urbanization and development; and recognition that the major challenges faced by cities and human settlements resulted from the inadequacy of the fundamental systems underlying their functioning, particularly regarding urban legislation, design and financial systems. UN-Habitat's approach linked urbanization and human settlements to sustainable development by focusing on prosperity, livelihoods and employment, especially among youth.

UN-Habitat's Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) grew to 66 partners and 2,115 individual members who worked in a more coordinated manner to implement the GLTN agenda. The UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative expanded its scope and impact into a global programme involving over 40 cities. UN-Habitat spearheaded the launch of two global multi-partnership initiatives at the Secretary-General's 2014 Climate Summit (New York, 23 September) to mobilize and accelerate action on the issue of climate change in cities. In the area of risk reduction and rehabilitation, UN-Habitat and its partners made progress in field operations in post-conflict and post-natural-disaster countries. Activities included the reconstruction of housing, water and sanitation infrastructure, community centres and schools; land conflict mediation; and the creation of livelihood opportunities for internally displaced persons and refugees. Through UN-Habitat's Youth Programme, 277 youth-led groups across 65 countries benefited from small grants for project implementation. Through its Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, UN-Habitat established a network with 160 cities, 200 communities and 35 countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, all implementing city-wide slum upgrading strategies. Regarding implementation of the Umoja Enterprise Resource

Planning system, UN-Habitat completed most of the preparations in readiness for deployment, scheduled for June 2015.

Progress was made towards achievement of five of the six expected accomplishments outlined in UN-Habitat's six-year (2014–2019) strategic plan, but little progress was made on mobilizing core income. With respect to urban legislation, land and governance, there was increased capacity, knowledge and awareness among local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to implement programmes that improved security of tenure for vulnerable groups. On urban planning and design, a notable achievement was the development of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning, which constituted a global framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that fostered sustainable urbanization. There were enhanced capacities among UN-Habitat partner cities to develop urban plans and policies supportive of inclusive economic growth, as demonstrated by the increased number of partner cities that prepared local economic development plans. With the support of UN-Habitat and its partners, there was an increase in the number of local, national and regional authorities taking action towards the implementation of policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services. As a long-term measure, UN-Habitat made progress in terms of increased urban resilience plans, launching recovery and rehabilitation plans and the development of urban frameworks promoting the new urban agenda. Through the Global Urban Observatory, 14 local and national urban observatories implemented UN-Habitat's methodologies and tools for data collection and analysis and supported their Governments in formulating more informed policies during the year. Since the launch of the City Prosperity Index in the *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013* report, 288 cities had requested UN-Habitat's support to implement the index. Mainstreaming of the cross-cutting issues of climate change, gender, youth and human rights had been institutionalized in UN-Habitat and took place at both programme and project levels.

Regional ministerial conferences. The fifth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD 5) (N'Djamena, Chad, 25–28 February) took place under the theme, “Case studies in financing human settlements in Africa: Appropriate legislative frameworks and innovations in implementation”. Matters discussed included the urban agenda for Africa and its linkage with the African Union Agenda 2063; preparations for the seventh session of the World Urban Forum; the post-2015 development agenda; and the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III. The main outcome documents were the N'Djamena

Declaration and Action Plan, which prioritized access to affordable and decent housing; the delivery of infrastructure and basic services for human settlements, including sanitation and waste management; slum prevention and upgrading; urban and territorial planning and effective land tenure; the urban economy; and the link between urban and rural areas.

The fifth session of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD 5) (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 3–5 November) adopted the Seoul Declaration, in which participants decided to deepen their commitment to regional collaboration to make cities and human settlements integrated, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Participants also committed to developing and implementing innovative national policies and to promoting inclusiveness and equity in urban development and infrastructure expansion. They recognized the importance of Habitat III and resolved to prepare a roadmap to participate in Habitat III and the formulation of the “New Urban Agenda”, and they requested the Chair of APMCHUD to ensure the implementation of the Declaration, in collaboration with other members of the Bureau, the APMCHUD secretariat and UN-Habitat.

Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Coordinated implementation of Habitat Agenda

In an April report [E/2014/64] submitted in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/22 [YUN 2013, p. 1016], the Secretary-General described the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with other UN system agencies and organizations in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the global, regional and national levels. Activities at the global level included Habitat III preparatory activities; the World Urban Campaign; the preparation and launch of the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013*; the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals processes; cooperation with international financial institutions; and the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Activities at the regional level focused on regional ministerial meetings on housing and urban development and cooperation with development banks. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels focused on urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy and municipal finance; urban basic services; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

The report recommended that Member States give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization in sustainable development in their national

development plans; formulate and implement urban planning policies that enhance economic productivity and equity; apply more systematically urban planning methods, including participatory processes; use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth; and facilitate the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process for Habitat III.

Sustainable urbanization

In an April report [E/2014/67] prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 61/16 [YUN 2006, p. 1589], the Secretary-General discussed effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization. The report informed the thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council's 2014 integration segment (see below), which focused on the same topic and summarized governance, planning and management instruments for promoting urban sustainability; emerging models for sustainable urbanization; and lessons learned from the implementation of different urban governance models to address sustainability challenges. The Secretary-General concluded that urban governance models, policies and planning tools should recognize and address the widening scope and impact of urban activities across policy areas and spatial boundaries and involve an increasing number of urban stakeholders and actors. He provided policy initiatives to be considered, including a whole-of-government approach; inclusive and participatory mechanisms for decision-making; and strong partnerships.

Economic and Social Council consideration.

The first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 27–29 May) focused on the theme of sustainable urbanization and provided a multi-stakeholder platform to demonstrate how urbanization could become an instrument for the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The segment identified the potential short-term policy choices, resulting trade-offs and long-term gains inherent to an integrated and balanced sustainable development approach; provided solutions, innovations and partnerships on sustainable urbanization; and identified tools and instruments to facilitate inputs that could be used by the Council to assess the integrated approach. The high-level exchange of experiences, practices and strategies demonstrated the transformative potential of urbanization and led to the identification of recommendations that could shape the post-2015 agenda and Habitat III (see p. 1202).

On 25 July (**decision 2014/248**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report [E/2014/67] of the Secretary-General on effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/30** [draft: E/2014/L.29] without vote [agenda item 16 (d)].

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”,

Acknowledging the work of UN-Habitat towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as other goals and targets relevant to human settlements,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the first ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council on sustainable urbanization, held from 27 to 29 May 2014, and its focus on the role of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development, and invites the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to make full use of this focus in its work;

3. *Encourages* Governments to give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization and human settlements in sustainable development in their national development plans in order to ensure coordinated implementation of different sectoral policies within cities and human settlements in general and to formulate and implement national urban development policies;

4. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to further enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the role of local authorities and to consider the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive roles of cities and human settlements in their consideration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

6. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-ninth session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2015 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

In response to resolution 2014/30 (see above), the Secretary-General, by an August note [A/69/343], transmitted his April report to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

Implementation of outcome of Habitat II and strengthening of UN-Habitat

An August report [A/69/298] submitted by the Secretary-General in response to General Assembly resolution 68/239 [YUN 2013, p. 1017] described UN-Habitat activities over the previous year in implementing the Habitat Agenda [YUN 1996, p. 994], adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [ibid., p. 992], and the strengthening of UN-Habitat. It reviewed progress in preparation for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) at the global, regional and national levels, and in information and publicity, including through the seventh session of the World Urban Forum (see below) and the World Urban Campaign [YUN 2009, p. 1038]. It also described progress in the implementation of three issues highlighted by the General Assembly in resolution 68/239: outcome of the governance review process; financial developments in UN-Habitat; and sustainable urbanization and the post-2015 development agenda. The report further described UN-Habitat's engagement in the first-ever Economic and Social Council integration segment (see p. 1200), which was on the theme of sustainable urbanization, and global and regional activities including publication of the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013: Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility*, and celebrations related to World Habitat Day 2013, and the inaugural World Cities Day observed on 31 October 2014.

The UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives, through its Bureau, continued its consideration of the governance review process, including the timing of that process in relation to the envisaged outcome of Habitat III. Regarding financial developments, income projections for the biennium 2014–2015 remained at \$62.9 million and \$283 million for non-earmarked and earmarked income, respectively. As at 30 June, non-earmarked income received and confirmed pledges amounted to \$24.5 million (or 39 per cent of the projection), while \$57.6 million (or 19 per cent of the projection) had been received in earmarked income.

On Habitat III, the report called upon Members States to decide on the venue, final dates, format and organizational aspects of the conference; to decide on the venue and duration of the third and final Habitat III Preparatory Committee meeting; to ensure the participation of local governments and all other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself; and to expedite the preparation of Habitat III national reports and their submission to the Habitat III secretariat. On urbanization and human settlements policy issues, it called upon Members States to continue giving consideration to sustainable urbanization and human settlements in

the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda; and to continue supporting UN-Habitat through predictable multiyear funding and increased non-earmarked contributions in support of its strategic plan 2014–2019.

World Urban Forum, 2014

The seventh session of the World Urban Forum (Medellín, Colombia, 5–11 April) [HSP/WUF/7/3], held under the theme “Urban equity in development: Cities for life”, examined ways to effectively integrate urban equity into the development agenda with a view to ensuring sustainable transformative change in an increasingly urbanized world. Many events at the Forum discussed the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, with participants supporting the idea of sustainable urban development being more centrally positioned in the post-2015 agenda, together with an urban sustainable development goal. The World Urban Campaign, launched in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1045], was positioned as an inclusive platform to mobilize stakeholders for Habitat III (see below). There was concern among participants about the unsustainability of the current level of urban sprawl, the diminishing of urban densities and the progressive consumption of arable land due to unplanned urbanization. The Forum exhibited broad consensus on the need for good and inclusively designed urban policies driven by equity and discussed urban equity in development law, urban planning and design for social cohesion, basic services: local businesses for equitable cities, innovative financing instruments for local authorities, raising standards for urban resilience and a safe city as a just and equitable city. For the first time, the programme of the Forum integrated assemblies that convened business representatives, youth, women and children, respectively. There were nine special sessions addressing traditional and emerging subjects relevant to the urban agenda, and 1,607 people, including 789 women, participated in 30 training events.

A report [HSP/GC/25/2/Add.2] of the UN-Habitat Executive Director summarized the issues discussed at the seventh session of the Forum, as well as its outcome—the Medellín Declaration, which provided recommendations that emerged from the Forum and around which a substantial consensus was reached. It contained four key areas: equity as a foundation of sustainable urban development; the city as opportunity; new urban agenda; and contributing to the future. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to integrating urban equity into the development agenda, employing all means and resources available to ensure that cities were transformed into inclusive, safe, prosperous and harmonious spaces for all. Although urbanization had ushered in economic growth,

development and prosperity for many people, cities were also spaces of multidimensional poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to disasters and the impacts of climate change. Participants thus agreed that although notable efforts were being made to overcome challenges to sustainable and inclusive development, much work remained to be done. They highlighted the need to promote a new urban agenda that could overcome the lack of an adequate legal framework and planning system and promote a people-centred urbanization model based on “cities for life”. On contributing to the future, the Medellín Declaration discussed the importance of sustainable urbanization in the post-2015 development agenda, contributions to Habitat III, and the World Urban Forum.

Preparations for Habitat III

In a September report [A/CONF.226/PC.1/4], the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) described activities carried out at the national, regional and international levels prior to the first session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee (see below). The report discussed consultations and contributions between 2012 and 2014 in relation to the UN-Habitat Governing Council, the sixth and seventh sessions of the World Urban Forum, regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, the UN system and global partners. The report also provided information on the activities proposed for the period 2014–2016 in four areas: knowledge, engagement, policy and operations.

Preparatory Committee. In October [A/CONF.226/PC.1/6], the Habitat III Preparatory Committee reported on its first session (New York, 17–18 September), at which it established a working group on operational and administrative matters that met twice over the course of session. The Habitat III Secretary-General reported to the session on the activities of the secretariat in preparation for the Conference and presented proposals for the improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself. He also reported on an outline of work to be carried out between September 2014 and the holding of the Conference in 2016. The Preparatory Committee held an exchange of views on progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on the identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development. It took note of a note [A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/3] by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the financing of the preparatory process and the Conference, and it recommended that the Preparatory Committee’s second session be held from 14–16 April 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/469], adopted **resolution 69/226** without vote [agenda item 20].

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, which addressed the convening in 2016 of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),

Recalling further relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including Council resolution 2014/30 of 25 July 2014 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2014,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, since urbanization has brought growth and development, including a dramatic reduction in poverty, national economic growth, major progress in human settlements connectivity, which helps to boost productivity and the creation of opportunities, the merging of cities and towns into new regional spatial configurations that are conducive to faster economic and demographic growth, and a higher degree of interdependence between rural and urban areas that has helped to

reduce the vulnerability of rural communities and enhance the prospects of more equitable development, challenges remain, such as urban sprawl, congestion, pollution, the emission of greenhouse gases, emerging urban poverty, segregation, increasing inequalities and other negative externalities, as well as the continuing increase in the number of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum and recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellín for hosting the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014,

Recalling the commitment of Member States and the efforts of other stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

Emphasizing the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements,

Recalling its resolution 67/148 of 20 December 2012, in which it called upon the United Nations system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on its first session, and endorses its recommendation that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held from 14 to 16 April 2015;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the Preparatory Committee in their respective consideration of the work of UN-Habitat and preparations for Habitat III, within their respective mandates;

4. *Continues to encourage* giving due consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Notes* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

6. *Reiterates its encouragement* to Member States, UN-Habitat and all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to implement Governing Council resolution 24/4 of 19 April 2013, and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender

equality and women's empowerment in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat;

7. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host Habitat III, and decides that the Conference will be held in Quito during the week of 17 October 2016;

8. *Recalls* its decisions in resolution 67/216 on the objective and results of the Conference, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the Conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner to ensure a successful Conference, and decides that:

(a) The Conference shall be composed of eight plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level round-table sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

(b) Parallel meetings and other events, including multi-stakeholder segments, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, the multi-stakeholder segments will constitute an official part of the Conference, and interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis;

(c) Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to housing and sustainable urban development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference;

(d) The third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Indonesia in July 2016 and shall consist of six plenary meetings on the basis of two meetings a day;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the Conference and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort;

10. *Encourages* Member States to participate at the highest possible level in the Conference;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to participate in the Preparatory Committee and to continue giving due consideration at all levels to the New Urban Agenda and commit to defining it, together with all relevant stakeholders;

12. *Encourages* Member States and international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions and foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to continue to support the national, regional and global preparations for Habitat III through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the forthcoming Preparatory Committee meetings and in the Conference itself in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 (c) of resolution 67/216, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners and other relevant stakeholders in the Preparatory Committee meetings;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations for the Habitat III preparatory process;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the effective participation in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself of local governments and all other stake-

holders, including those in the national habitat committees, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10 of resolution 68/239, and, inter alia, to expedite the preparation of Habitat III national reports;

15. *Invites* Member States to facilitate participatory processes and the wide participation of stakeholders, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate, in particular through national urban forums, and as a means of preparing for Habitat III;

16. *Encourages* stakeholders gathering at the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the Conference;

17. *Invites* the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to prepare the draft outcome document of the Conference on the basis of inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders and to circulate it no later than six months prior to the Conference;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to include in their planned regional meetings, such as the regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, as well as other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, discussions on Habitat III so as to facilitate the provision of regional inputs to the preparatory process for the Conference;

19. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those accredited to Habitat II and the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, shall register in order to participate in the Conference;

20. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference, may participate as observers in the Conference as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus;

21. *Notes with appreciation*, as reported by the Secretary-General in his report submitted pursuant to resolution 68/239, that the discussions among stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum provided, inter alia, an important contribution to Habitat III and that in those discussions it was recognized that Habitat III was a unique opportunity to develop a new urban agenda that could contribute to harnessing urbanization as a positive force for present and future generations and to advancing the quest for equity and shared prosperity;

22. *Takes note* of the Medellin Declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in which Governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals, civil society and other social actors reaffirmed the importance of cities in sustainable development;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to provide, in the most efficient

and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum extent possible;

24. *Recalls* the seven priorities and four cross-cutting issues contained in the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019 approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session, which the General Assembly welcomed in its resolution 68/239;

25. *Invites* Member States, the international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to continue efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

28. *Notes* the governance review process of UN-Habitat, encourages the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the Governing Council to continue their consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council on how to proceed with the governance review, and underlines that it shall consider the report of the Governing Council on this and other issues at its seventieth session;

29. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries has changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014–2019;

30. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote just, resilient and inclusive cities, considering the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and with a particular focus on the needs of women and those who are most vulnerable, including children and youth, older persons, persons living with disability, rural to urban migrants, internally displaced persons and indigenous peoples;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council on sustainable urbanization, held from 27 to 29 May 2014, and its focus on the role of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development through an integrated approach that engages all key stakeholders, including local authorities, in order to produce in-

novative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

32. *Invites* Member States to take into account the interlinkages among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the formulation of policies, plans and programmes at the local, national and international levels in order to address, as appropriate, the structural problems and challenges facing many cities;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the item of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.