

1. Urges all States, bearing in mind their respective responsibilities, to take the necessary legal and technical measures in order to halt and prevent the illegal international traffic in, and the dumping and resulting accumulation of, toxic and dangerous products and wastes;

2. Also urges all States to prohibit all transboundary movement of toxic and dangerous wastes carried out without the prior consent of the competent authorities of the importing country or without full recognition of the sovereign rights of transit countries;

3. Further urges all States in this connection to prohibit such movement without prior notification in writing of the competent authorities of all countries concerned, including transit countries, and to provide all information required to ensure the proper management of the wastes and full disclosure of the nature of the substances to be received or transported;

4. Urges all States generating toxic and dangerous wastes to make every effort to treat and dispose of them in the country of origin to the maximum extent possible consistent with environmentally sound disposal;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts with a Mandate to Prepare a Global Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, established by the United Nations Environment Programme, to give due consideration to the present resolution and to take into account the various views expressed during the forty-third session of the General Assembly on the respective responsibilities for the prevention of the illegal international traffic in, and the dumping and resulting accumulation of, toxic and dangerous products and wastes;

6. Culls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to strengthen its scientific and technical co-operation with the developing countries and to provide appropriate assistance to them in their efforts to eliminate the adverse consequences of toxic and dangerous products and wastes for human health and the environment.

General Assembly resolution 43/212

20 December 1988 Meeting 83 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/43/919) without vote, 6 December (meeting 47); draft by Vice-Chairman (A/C.2/43/L.74), orally revised, based on draft by Tunisia, for Group of 77 (A/C.2/43/L.23); agenda item 143. Meeting numbers. GA 43rd session: 2nd Committee 21-26, 30, 47; plenary 83.

Transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

The Executive Director of UNEP, as authorized by a 1987 decision of the Governing Council,⁽¹⁶⁾ convened the third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts with a Mandate to Prepare a Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes (Geneva, 7-16 November 1988). The draft convention was to be submitted to a diplomatic conference for adoption early in 1989.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July, on the recommendation of its First Committee, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1988/71 without vote.

Global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts with a Mandate to Prepare a Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to Governing Council decision 14/30 of 17 June 1987, and that the draft of the convention will be submitted to a diplomatic conference for adoption by Governments in Basel, Switzerland, in early 1989,

1. Stresses the importance of the active participation of all Governments in the preparatory work for the global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, with a view to its speedy and successful completion;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on developments in regard to the convention.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/71

28 July 1988 Meeting 40 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (E/1988/118) without vote, 22 July (meeting 20); draft by Chairman (E/1988/C.1/L.10), based on informal consultations; agenda item 11.

Atomic radiation and nuclear dumping

In August, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation issued a report on the sources, effects and risks of ionizing radiation.⁽¹⁷⁾ The report gave a historical review of the Committee's work and outlined the levels and effects of radiation from such sources as nuclear explosions, nuclear power production and medical exposures. It summarized the developments and trends in the field and presented the highlights and conclusions to be drawn from the most recent studies in radiation physics and biology.

On 6 December, the Assembly adopted resolution 43/55, requesting the Committee to continue its work and noting with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Committee and UNEP.

On 28 July, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 1988/174, requested the Secretary-General-through UNEP's Governing Council and in co-operation with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency-to submit a report to the Assembly at its 1989 session on the effects of the dumping of nuclear wastes on the environment.

Global climate

In January 1988, UNEP organized an internal seminar to identify environmental sectors that might be sensitive to climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a forum in which Governments were examining greenhouse warming and global climate change, held