Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment programme

In accordance with Chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which called for the involvement of youth from all parts of the world in promoting environmental awareness and in carrying out Agenda 21, the United States, on 22 April, initiated the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment programme (GLOBE). GLOBE was a school-based international environmental science and education programme to help monitor the global environment. It aimed at enhancing the collective awareness of individuals concerning the environment, increasing scientific understanding of the Earth and helping students reach the highest standards in science and mathematics education.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, adopted resolution 49/112 without vote.

Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme

The General Assembly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General Assembly resolution 49/112

19 December 1994 Meeting 92 Adopted without vote

Approved by Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6) without vote, 1 December (meeting 31); 54-nation draft (A/C.2/49/L.10/Rev.1); agenda item 89.

Sponsors: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Micronesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia.

Meeting numbers: GA 49th session: 2nd Committee 21, 25, 28-31; plenary 92.

Coordination within the UN system

The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in 1992, held two meetings in 1994 (New York, 2-4 March and Geneva, 14-16 June).