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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 96 (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action to be taken on this item as a whole was considered at the 38th, 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 8 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 42 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.28 and L.69

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/50/L.28), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item is being issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

"Recalling its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the recommendations on international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, as contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 1/ in which, inter alia, the need for a strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council was stressed and priority areas on which the Programme should concentrate were elaborated,

"Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session, 2/ the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Programme, 3/ the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, 4/ and the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 5/

"1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session and the decisions contained therein; 6/

"2. Welcomes, in particular, Governing Council decision 18/7 of 26 May 1995 concerning the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development and the role of the Programme in and its contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21;

"3. Requests the Governing Council to prepare a report on the role and activities of the Programme in the implementation of Agenda 21, in accordance with its mandate, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

"4. Notes with concern the lack of sufficient and timely financial contributions to the Environment Fund and calls upon Governments to

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25).

3/ A/50/171.

4/ A/50/371.

5/ A/C.2/50/2.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25), annex.

contribute or increase their contributions to the Environment Fund, make their pledges in advance of the year to which they relate and pay their contributions early in the year in order to allow for the full and effective implementation of the work programme;

"5. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote maximum and cost-effective utilization of the conference facilities at its headquarters in Nairobi, and calls upon Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies to support such efforts to ensure optimum utilization of the capacity of all United Nations conference facilities, with a view to redressing the present balance;

"6. Welcomes also Governing Council decision 18/10 6/ on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system, and requests the Secretary-General to invite the specialized agencies and other organizations of the system to apply the good housekeeping practices set out in that decision as soon as possible;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/50/L.69), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.28.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.69 without a vote (see para. 7).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.69, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.28 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

6. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment, submitted under the chapeau of item 96 (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations
Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the recommendations on international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 7/ in which, inter alia, the need for a strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council was stressed and priority areas on which the Programme should concentrate were elaborated,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session, 8/ the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Programme, 9/ the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, 10/ and the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 11/

1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session and the decisions contained therein; 12/

2. Recognizes, in particular, Governing Council decisions 18/1 on the role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme, 18/5 on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment, 18/7 on environment and sustainable development and 18/10 on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system; 13/

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25).

9/ A/50/171.

10/ A/50/371.

11/ A/C.2/50/2.

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25), annex.

13/ Ibid.

3. Requests the Governing Council to prepare a report on the role and activities of the Programme in the implementation of Agenda 21, in accordance with its mandate, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. Notes the importance of sufficient and timely contributions to the Environment Fund, and calls upon Governments to make contributions in a timely fashion in order to allow for the full and effective implementation of the work programmes;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote maximum and cost-effective utilization of the conference facilities at its headquarters at Nairobi, and calls upon Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies to support such efforts to ensure optimum utilization of the capacity of all United Nations conference facilities;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

8. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful
to health and the environment

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment. 14/
