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GOVERNING COUNCIL
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Agenda item 7 (f)(i)(b)

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA
AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON DESERTIFICATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THE
SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION

Note by the Administrator

Attached is decision 8/17,^{1/} Implementation of the Plan of Action to combat Desertification, adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighth session.

^{1/} See UNEP/GC.8/10, page 150.

8/17. Implementation of the Plan of Action to
Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 33/88 and 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 33/170 of 20 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/37 of 21 July 1978,

Recalling further its decisions 6/11 of 24 May 1978 and 7/13 of May 1979,

Stressing the seriousness of desertification and its adverse effects on the people of the countries affected by it, particularly in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and the need to intensify desertification control measures,

Having examined the report of the Executive Director on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,^{15/}

1. Notes the actions taken by Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme and members of the United Nations system for the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;
2. Notes the report of the Executive Director on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, and the measures taken by the Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme and other competent organs of the United Nations, particularly those taken by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme;
3. Further notes that priority is being given to efforts to combat desertification in the 15 countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, as well as in the least developed among the developing countries outside that region;
4. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Executive Director and urges him to reinforce further the collaborative relations between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Organization of African Unity;
5. Calls on Governments and the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in view of the principal obstacles to the full implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification as identified by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and by the Executive Director;

^{15/} UNEP/GC.8/6 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3 and Corr.1.

(a) To assign sufficiently high priority to prevention or combat of desertification, to include such measures in their national development plans, and to take full advantage of international assistance in this respect as and when required, using for this purpose bilateral and multilateral mechanisms as appropriate;

(b) To strengthen the efforts and co-operation of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification so as to ensure the proper multidisciplinary approach to projects and to arrange for effective pooling of the efforts and resources of its various agencies and bodies with a view to ensuring the most efficient utilization of these resources;

(c) Together with other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to increase their efforts to close the gaps in knowledge and appropriate technology related to combating desertification, with particular emphasis on socio-cultural dimensions and the teaching of the existing and newly acquired knowledge to potential users, particularly at the level of extension agents and farmers/pastoralists;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control at its second session and of the declarations of support expressed by several participants during the session, and urges them to translate these declarations into specific commitments in the near future, requests the Executive Director to follow up the results of the work of the Group's second session with a view to ensuring proper implementation of the agreements reached and calls on the Consultative Group to intensify its efforts to assist the Executive Director in the mobilization of resources needed for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

7. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue for 1980-1981 to contribute to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, after consultations with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the share contributed by the United Nations Environment Programme of the administrative and operational costs of the joint venture on the basis of the work plan to be approved by the Executive Director, within the available resources of the Environment Fund, and to submit to the Governing Council at its ninth session, the full account of these operational expenditures for 1978-1980 and their place within the total operational expenditures of the Office related to its additional anti-desertification mandate, with a view to providing the Governing Council with a basis for considering future financing of the operational costs of the joint venture;

8. Strongly appeals to international financial institutions, multilateral financial organizations and Governments of industrialized countries, and of developing countries in a position to do so, to give their financial support and contribute generously to the Special Account, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

9. Approves the over-all structure of the study on additional measures for financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification to be prepared by a group of high-level specialists in international financing, to be convened by the Executive Director, in response to General Assembly resolution 34/134 of 18 December 1979;

10. Decides to include the pilot project for the improvement and restoration of the Foutah-Djalion massif within the programme of action of the United Nations Environment Programme against desertification and notes the intention of the Executive Director thereon;

11. Further decides to add Djibouti to the list of countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and to include Guinea and Guinea-Bissau among the countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

12. Authorizes the Executive Director to update the report of the Governing Council before its submission to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, on the basis of:

(a) Inclusion of the main elements of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

(b) Incorporation of the necessary changes in the report in the light of the discussions of the Governing Council;

(c) Inclusion of major actions in the inventory of activities of the United Nations system not included in the report;

(d) Inclusion of major development in the implementation of the Plan of Action since the preparation of the report,

13. Further authorizes the Executive Director to submit the updated report and the decision of the Governing Council on this matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on behalf of the Governing Council.

12th meeting
29 April 1980