GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth session
June 1981
Agenda item 7 (h)

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

Draft decision submitted by the Gambia

The Governing Council,

Conscious of the need for the speedy implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the plan of action to combat desertification as an integral part of the general efforts to promote the economic and social development of the region on an ecologically sound basis.

Stressing that desertification is both a major form of environmental degradation and an obstacle to development in fragile ecosystems characterized by low and erratic rainfalls,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Administrator on the implementation of the plan of action to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region (DP/543), and of the statement by the Director of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

2. Commends the Administrator for the progress achieved by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, acting on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme and within the joint UNEP/UNDP venture, in implementing the plan of action to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

3. Endorses decision 9/22 B of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to add Benin to the list of countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in implementing the plan of action to combat desertification;
4. Requests the Administrator to continue to support the administrative and programme costs of the joint UNEP/UNDP venture in full partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to ensuring the timely and effective provision of assistance, through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, in combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

5. Urges all Governments, organizations, organs and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and private organizations, to intensify their assistance either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, in response to the priority requirements of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

6. Further requests the Administrator to continue to report annually to the Governing Council on the implementation of the plan of action to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.