



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.22
14 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 96 (a) and (b)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF
DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Philippines*: draft resolution

Elaboration of an international convention to combat
desertification in those countries experiencing
serious drought and/or desertification, particularly
in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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), resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling further its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, in which it urged the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/234 2/ and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes, and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 7/1 3/ on dates and venue of the sessions of the Committee during the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Special Voluntary Fund for the participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries,

Noting also that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has established two working groups in order to be able to discharge its responsibilities in the preparation of the first session of the Conference of Parties,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Trust Fund, which requires adequate funding to enable the interim secretariat to respond to the request for support in carrying out activities in implementation of urgent action in Africa as well as actions in other affected developing regions,

Considering that the Convention is one of the main steps in the implementation and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization and the ratification of the Convention by a growing number of States, and urges States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

2. Invites all States, in addition to the information they have already provided, to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention information on actions undertaken or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa; 4/

2/ A/50/515.

3/ A/50/74/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

4/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III.

3. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention;

4. Decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1996, each of up to two weeks' duration, the eighth session to be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3 to 13 September;

5. Decides also to convene a further two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1997, each of up to two weeks' duration, the tenth session to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January and the eleventh session in April, the exact dates and venue of which to be determined at a later stage;

6. Recommends that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue of which to be determined at a later stage;

7. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and the Latin American and Caribbean regions;

8. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to take actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa;

9. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the Fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

10. Urges States, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to reinforce the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention through substantial contributions to the Trust Fund;

11. Renews its appeals to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make early contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund in

order to ensure an enhanced effective participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

12. Welcomes the arrangements concluded between the interim secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Meteorological Organization, whereby appropriate actions are to be taken for active collaboration and support of activities at the national and regional levels in affected developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, and invites the interim secretariat to conclude similar arrangements with other relevant organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the Committee's work to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".
