

32/158. United Nations Water Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3513 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979 (LIX) of 31 July 1975,

Recalling further its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Noting that the United Nations Water Conference, held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 14 to 25 March 1977, took far-reaching decisions on the entire spectrum of the management and development of water resources,

Considering that the agreements reached at the Conference call for urgent action,

1. *Adopts* the report of the United Nations Water Conference and approves the Mar del Plata Action Plan⁶⁹ and the other agreements reached at the Conference;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government and the people of Argentina for their generous hospitality during the holding of the Conference;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the Conference for the effective preparation and organization of the Conference;

4. *Urges* Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action for the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference;

5. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolutions 2115 (LXIII) and 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977;

6. *Reaffirms* that due priority should be given to the measures needed to implement the Mar del Plata Action Plan as well as other agreements reached at the Conference;

7. *Recommends* that Governments should consider, where necessary, the desirability of designating national water resources committees or other suitable organizations to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Conference's recommendations at the national level on the basis of detailed national action programmes, encompassing areas specified in the note by the Secretary-General on recommendations of the Conference and follow-up action,⁷⁰ and recommends more popular involvement in the process of planning and decision making towards the formulation of a national policy;

8. *Requests* the regional commissions to strengthen and intensify their responsibilities in the water sector and, to this end, assign specific responsibilities to an intergovernmental committee within the regional commissions, in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference and with resolution 1 (V) of 16 May

1977 of the Committee on Natural Resources,⁷¹ with the allocation, if necessary, of additional resources;

9. *Requests* the Committee on Natural Resources, at its special session, to review plans and programmes prepared at the national and regional levels and to formulate immediate and concrete steps to promote and secure their early implementation;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the results of the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources and on the measures adopted by the whole United Nations system for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the agreements reached at the Conference.

*107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977*

32/159. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and urgent measures to be taken on behalf of the region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972 and 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973,

Recalling further its resolutions 3253 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and 31/180 of 21 December 1976 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1918 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975 and 2103 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977,

Taking note of the decision of 27 June 1977 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme⁷² concerning the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Deeply concerned at the magnitude of the effects of the new drought prevailing in the Sudano-Sahelian region and, in particular, at the serious shortage of food and the livestock losses,

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel at its special session held at Niamey on 26 and 27 October 1977,

Mindful of the fact that the transport problem, particularly the state of the infrastructure and the inadequacy of the present capacities, constitutes a major obstacle for the countries of the region,

Noting the measures taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme to establish large stockpiles of food in the ports of the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Noting the individual and collective efforts made by States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel,

Noting with satisfaction the decisive role played by the United Nations Sahelian Office, on the one hand,

⁷¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 2A (E/6004), chap. I, sect. B, and E/6004/Add.1.

⁷² Ibid., Supplement No. 3A (E/6013/Rev.1), para. 165.

⁶⁹ Report of the United Nations Water Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

⁷⁰ E/6015.

in helping to combat the effects of the drought and to implement the priority medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme adopted by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, and, on the other hand, in mobilizing the necessary resources to finance priority projects,

Taking note of the expansion of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sahel as a result of the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, meeting at Ouagadougou from 25 to 28 April 1977, of the drought control and development strategy and programme for the Sahel,

Considering that the nature and magnitude of the needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, which are among the least developed countries, make it necessary for the international community to continue and to strengthen its action of solidarity in support of the recovery efforts and economic development of those countries,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region,⁷³

I

EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. *Urges* Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations to respond immediately to the appeal made by the Council of Ministers of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel at its special session held at Niamey, in particular by taking emergency measures to meet the requirements for food aid specified in the declaration adopted at Niamey;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, donor agencies and the competent United Nations agencies to employ special procedures for the transport of this aid and to inform the World Food Programme thereof so that it may co-ordinate shipments to the affected regions;

3. *Invites* Member States, donor agencies and the competent United Nations agencies to dispatch any evaluation missions required for the purpose of determining accurately the exact requirements of each of the countries concerned;

4. *Urges* Member States, particularly the developed countries, international financing institutions and intergovernmental organizations to intensify their assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian countries by providing them with increased financial assistance to alleviate the effects of the drought;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to apply the experience gained in relief operations in continuing to produce forecasts and to provide adequate assistance to overcome the problems of supply, storage and distribution;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to operate the early

warning system in order to keep abreast of developments in the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

II

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General⁷⁴ on the efforts made to implement the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region drawn up by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that have contributed to the implementation of the programme;

3. *Urges* all States to provide financial and technical support for efforts to strengthen transport infrastructures and facilities, with particular emphasis on ensuring uninterrupted movement of food-stuffs and other products from the ports of unloading to all regions of the land-locked countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

4. *Also urges* all Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals to continue to respond favourably and in a continuing manner, either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, to requests for assistance from the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and its member States;

5. *Draws the attention* of Member States and of the Secretary-General to the importance of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel held at Banjul from 16 to 19 December 1977, and of the third Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Permanent Inter-State Committee to be held at Banjul on 20 and 21 December 1977;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Sahelian Office to continue its close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and its efforts to ensure co-operation and co-ordination between United Nations programmes and bodies, with a view to the implementation of the medium-term and long-term assistance programmes;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his action aimed at mobilizing the financial resources necessary for the implementation of the medium-term and long-term projects identified by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-third session on the implementation of section I of the present resolution.

107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977

⁷³ DP/252 and Corr.1; A/32/254.

⁷⁴ A/32/254.