

Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in New York from 23 to 28 June 1997,

Recalling also that Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development should constitute the framework within which the other outcomes of the Conference are reviewed, and from within which new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the Conference are addressed,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/188 and 54/218 on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and the special session, as well as its resolution 55/2,

Recalling decision 8/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development on preparations for the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,

Recalling also that chapter 33 of Agenda 21 identified the Global Environment Facility as one source of financing for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Recalling further the importance of chapter 34 of Agenda 21 for developing countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring effective preparation for the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference and the nineteenth special session,

Taking note with appreciation also of the Malm Ministerial Declaration adopted at the sixth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Deeply concerned that, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the Stockholm Conference and the fact that some progress has been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate,

Reconfirming the political importance of the forthcoming 10-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and underscoring that the review should focus on the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997,

Bearing in mind that its substantive activities should take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes relevant to sustainable development of other United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up activities,

Bearing further in mind that national reports that have been prepared by Governments since 1992 on national implementation of Agenda 21, and to which major groups have contributed, could provide a fair basis for guiding national preparatory processes,

Reconfirming that Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development should not be renegotiated and that the review should identify measures for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including sources of funding,

1. Decides to organize the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 at the summit level to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development, and accepts with gratitude the generous offer of South Africa to host the summit;

2. Also decides to call the summit the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

3. Further decides that the review should focus on the identification of accomplishments and areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should focus on action-oriented decisions in areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21, address, within the framework of Agenda 21, new challenges and opportunities, and result in renewed political commitment and support for sustainable development, consistent, inter alia, with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

4. Decides that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

5. Stresses the importance of early and effective preparations for the Summit and a comprehensive assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be carried out at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system so as to ensure high-quality inputs to the review process, and welcomes the preparatory activities carried out so far;

6. Welcomes the work undertaken at the regional level in close collaboration with the respective regional commissions to implement the action programmes for sustainable development that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Summit itself;

7. Also welcomes the work undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and the secretariats of conventions related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as other relevant organizations, agencies and programmes within and outside the United Nations system and including international and regional financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way;

8. Further welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility on implementation of Agenda 21, and notes the assistance provided by the Facility to the national implementation of Agenda 21;

9. Welcomes the decision of the Global Environment Facility at its last meeting, from 1 to 3 November 2000, to request the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the Facility in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa taking into account the third replenishment;

10. Also welcomes the initiation of the third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and invites all donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to make contributions to the third replenishment and ensure its successful conclusion, and invites the Facility to provide a report to the 2002 review on the status of the replenishment negotiations;

11. Invites relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations and international financial institutions involved with the implementation of Agenda 21, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as conventions related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to participate fully in the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, including in the preparation of reports for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session and the 2002 summit, in order to reflect their experiences and the lessons learned as well as to provide ideas and proposals for the way forward for further implementation of Agenda 21 in relevant areas;

12. Encourages effective contributions from and the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as its established practices for the participation and engagement of major groups;

13. Decides that the meetings of the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development shall be transformed into an open-ended preparatory committee that will provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies as well as other participants in the Commission on Sustainable Development in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established by the Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decisions 1993/215 and 1995/201;

14. Invites regional groups to nominate their candidates for the Bureau of the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development by the end of 2000 in order that they can be involved in its preparations in advance of the first meeting of the preparatory committee;

15. Decides that the Commission, acting as the preparatory committee, should:

(a) Undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of the results of national assessments and sub-regional and regional preparatory meetings, the documentation to be prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the task managers and other inputs from relevant international organizations, as well as on the basis of contributions from major groups;

- (b) Identify major accomplishments and lessons learned in the implementation of Agenda 21;
- (c) Identify major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21 and propose specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, and institutional and financial requirements, and identify the sources of such support;
- (d) Address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development within the framework of Agenda 21;
- (e) Address ways of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and evaluate and define the role and programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (f) Consider and decide on accreditation for participation in the preparatory process and the Summit of relevant non-governmental organizations which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;
- (g) Propose a provisional agenda and possible main themes for the Summit based on the outcomes of the preparatory activities at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, as well as taking into account the input of major groups;
- (h) Propose rules and procedures for participation of representatives of major groups in the Summit, taking into account the rules and procedures applied in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;
- (i) Undertake any other functions that may be required by the preparatory process;

16. Also decides to hold, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 8/1, a three-day meeting of the tenth session of the Commission, so that the Commission can thereby start its work as the preparatory committee for the 2002 Summit, and, in this context, invites the Commission to start its organizational work in order to do the following:

- (a) Elect, from among all States, a Bureau composed of 10 members, with two representatives from each of the geographical groups, one of whom would be elected the Chairperson and others as Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur;
- (b) Consider progress in preparatory activities at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, as well as by major groups;
- (c) Decide, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 17 below, on the specific modalities of its future preparatory meetings;
- (d) Consider a process for setting the agenda and determining possible main themes for the Summit in a timely manner;

17. Further decides that, in 2002, the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit, shall hold three additional sessions, organized as follows:

- a) At its first and second substantive preparatory sessions, to be held in January and March 2002, respectively, the preparatory committee shall undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the

Further Implementation of Agenda 21. At its second substantive session, the preparatory committee shall agree on the text of a document containing the results of the review and assessment, as well as conclusions and recommendations for further action;

(b) Drawing upon the agreed text of such a document, the third and final substantive preparatory session, to be held at the ministerial level in May 2002, shall prepare a concise and focused document that should emphasize the need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirm the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of Agenda 21, and address the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard. The document submitted for further consideration and adoption at the 2002 Summit should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to a North/South partnership and a higher level of international solidarity to the accelerated implementation of Agenda 21 and the promotion of sustainable development;

18. Decides to organize the third and final substantive preparatory session at the ministerial level in Indonesia and accepts with gratitude the generous offer of Indonesia to host it;

19. Stresses that the preparatory meetings and the 2002 Summit itself should be transparent and provide for effective participation and inputs from Governments and regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and for contributions from and active participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21;

20. Welcomes the establishment of a trust fund, urges international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support preparations for the 10-year review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the 2002 Summit itself, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups of developing countries in regional and international preparatory processes and the 2002 Summit itself;

21. Invites the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the state of preparation for the 2002 Summit for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, taking into account, inter alia, the inputs of respective regional meetings;

22. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item "Environment and Sustainable Development", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21".