Declar
e that no resolution adopted at the twenty-
seventh session of the General Assembly can a
c principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United

212th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

2997 (XXVII). Institutional and financial arrange-
ments for international environmental co-
operation

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the need for prompt and effective
implementation by Governments and the international
community of measures designed to safeguard and
enhance the environment for the benefit of present
and future generations of man,

Recognizing that responsibility for action to protect
and enhance the environment rests primarily with
Governments and, in the first instance, can be exercised
more effectively at the national and regional levels,

Recognizing further that environmental problems of
broad international significance fall within the com-
petence of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that international co-operative pro-
grammes in the field of the environment must be under-
taken with due respect for the sovereign rights of
States and in conformity with the Charter of the United
Nations and principles of international law,

Mindful of the sectoral responsibilities of the organi-
zations in the United Nations system,

Conscious of the significance of regional and sub-
regional co-operation in the field of the environment and
of the important role of the regional economic com-
misions and other regional intergovernmental organiza-
tions,

Emphasizing that problems of the environment consti-
tute a new and important area for international co-
operation and that the complexity and interdependence
of such problems require new approaches,

Recognizing that the relevant international scientific
and other professional communities can make an im-
portant contribution to international co-operation in
the field of the environment,

Conscious of the need for processes within the United
Nations system which would effectively assist develop-
ing countries to implement environmental policies and
programmes that are compatible with their development
plans and to participate meaningfully in international
environmental programmes,

Convinced that, in order to be effective, international
collaboration in the field of the environment requires
additional financial and technical resources,

Aware of the urgent need for a permanent institu-
tional arrangement within the United Nations system
for the protection and improvement of the environment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General
on the United Nations Conference on the Human
Environment,49

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. Declares to establish a Governing Council of the
United Nations Environment Programme, composed of
fifty-eight members elected by the General Assembly
for three-year terms on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;
(b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;
(c) Six seats for Eastern European States;
(d) Ten seats for Latin American States;
(e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other
States.

2. Declares that the Governing Council shall have
the following main functions and responsibilities:

(a) To promote international co-operation in the
field of the environment and to recommend, as appro-
priate, policies to this end;
(b) To provide general policy guidance for the
direction and coordination of environmental pro-
grammes within the United Nations system;
(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of
the Executive Director of the United Nations Environ-
ment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2,
below, on the implementation of environmental pro-
grammes within the United Nations system;
(d) To keep under review the world environmental
situation in order to ensure that emerging environ-
mental problems of wide international significance
receive appropriate and adequate consideration by
Governments;
(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant
international scientific and other professional com-
mittees to the acquisition, assessment and exchange
of environmental knowledge and information and, as
appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation
and implementation of environmental programmes
within the United Nations system;
(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact
of national and international environmental policies
and measures on developing countries, as well as the
problem of additional costs that may be incurred by
developing countries in the implementation of environ-
mental programmes and projects, and to ensure that
such programmes and projects shall be compatible with
the development plans and priorities of those countries;
(g) To review and approve annually the programme
of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund
referred to in section III below;

3. Declares that the Governing Council shall report
annually to the General Assembly through the Eco-
nomic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly
its view comments on the report as it may deem necessary,
particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination
and to the relationship of environmental policies and
programmes within the United Nations system to over-
all economic and social policies and priorities;

II

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIAT

1. Declares that a small secretariat shall be estab-
lished in the United Nations to serve as a focal point
for environmental action and co-ordination within the
United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management;

2. Decides that the environment secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, who shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General for a term of four years and who shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To provide substantive support to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) To co-ordinate, under the guidance of the Governing Council, environmental programmes within the United Nations system, to keep their implementation under review and to assess their effectiveness;

(c) To advise, as appropriate and under the guidance of the Governing Council, intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes;

(d) To secure the effective co-operation of, and contribution from, the relevant scientific and other professional communities in all parts of the world;

(e) To provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment;

(f) To submit to the Governing Council, on his own initiative or upon request, proposals embodying medium-range and long-range planning for United Nations programmes in the field of the environment;

(g) To bring to the attention of the Governing Council any matter which he deems to require consideration by it;

(h) To administer, under the authority and policy guidance of the Governing Council, the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

(i) To report on environmental matters to the Governing Council;

(j) To perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the Governing Council;

3. Decides that the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the secretariat referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations and that operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Environment Fund established under section III below shall be borne by the Fund;

III

ENVIRONMENT FUND

1. Decides that, in order to provide for additional financing for environmental programmes, a voluntary fund shall be established, with effect from 1 January 1973, in accordance with existing United Nations financial procedures;

2. Decides that, in order to enable the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfill its policy-guidance role for the direction and co-ordination of environmental activities, the Environment Fund shall finance wholly or partly the costs of the new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system—which will include the initiatives envisaged in the Action Plan

for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, with particular attention to integrated projects, and that other environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council—and that the Governing Council shall review these initiatives with a view to taking appropriate decisions as to their continued financing;

3. Decides that the Environment Fund shall be used for financing such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting systems, including, as appropriate, costs for national counterparts; the improvement of environmental quality management; environmental research; information exchange and dissemination; public education and training; assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; the promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards; and that such programmes as the Governing Council may decide upon, and that in the implementation of such programmes due account should be taken of the special needs of the developing countries;

4. Decides that, in order to ensure that the development priorities of developing countries shall not be adversely affected, adequate measures shall be taken to provide additional financial resources or terms compatible with the economic situation of the recipient developing country, and that, to this end, the Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations, shall keep this problem under continuing review;

5. Decides that the Environment Fund, in pursuance of the objectives stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, shall be directed to the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations;

6. Decides that, in the implementation of programmes to be financed by the Environment Fund, organizations outside the United Nations system, particularly those in the countries and regions concerned, shall also be utilized as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the Governing Council, and that such organizations are invited to support the United Nations environmental programmes by complementary initiatives and contributions;

7. Decides that the Governing Council shall formulate such general procedures as are necessary to govern the operations of the Environment Fund;

IV

ENVIRONMENT CO-ORDINATION BOARD

1. Decides that, in order to provide for the most efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes, an Environment Co-ordination Board, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, shall be established under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

2. Further decides that the Environment Co-ordination Board shall meet periodically for the purpose of ensuring co-operation and co-ordination among all

bodies of the United Nations system on the formulation of the Environment Programme;

3. Invites the United Nations system to undertake, in regard to new environmental initiatives, to consider and provide the necessary financial procedures established by the Governing Council, and that such organizations are invited to support the United Nations environmental programmes by complementary initiatives and contributions;

4. Invites, in the light of the experience of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to consider, appropriate regional and other international organizations to undertake co-operative and collaborative efforts directed to the promotion of environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council.

5. Authorizes appropriate non-governmental organizations to engage in the field of the environment, and to undertake co-operative and collaborative efforts directed to the promotion of environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council.

6. Considers it appropriate that the Governing Council review these initiatives with a view to achieving, where appropriate, co-operation and co-ordination.

7. Decides that, in the light of the experience of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Governing Council should be entrusted, within the framework of the Environment Fund, to undertake, with appropriate co-operation and collaboration, the implementation of initiatives and contributions in the field of the environment;
bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes and that it shall report annually to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems, taking into account existing procedures for prior consultation, particularly on programme and budgetary matters;

4. Invites the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, in co-operation where necessary with other appropriate regional bodies, to intensify further their efforts directed towards contributing to the implementation of environmental programmes in view of the particular need for the rapid development of regional co-operation in this field;

5. Also invites other intergovernmental and those non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the field of the environment to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination;

6. Calls upon Governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions shall be entrusted with the task of the co-ordination of environmental action, both national and international;

7. Decides to review as appropriate, at its thirty-first session, the above institutional arrangements, bearing in mind, inter alia, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

2112th plenary meeting
15 December 1972

At its 2112th plenary meeting, on 15 December 1972, the General Assembly, in pursuance of section I, paragraph 1, of the above resolution, elected the fifty-eight members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The following States were elected: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Burundi, Cameron, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The General Assembly then selected by the drawing of lots the members of the Governing Council to serve for three years, for two years and for one year.

As a result of the above election, the composition of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for 1973 will be as follows: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

2998 (XXVII). Criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements

The General Assembly,
Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,45
Recalling its resolutions 1393 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 1508 (XV) of 12 December 1960, 1676 (XVI) of 18 December 1961, 1917 (XVIII) of 5 December 1965, 2036 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2398 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970,
Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1170 (XLI) of 5 August 1966,
Mindful of the aims expressed in the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, as well as in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter,
Taking into account the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,46
Considering the important role assigned to housing as part of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,47
Further recalling resolution 2718 (XXV) in which the General Assembly set out broad directions and measures essential for the improvement of human settlements,
Noting the report of the Secretary-General entitled Proposals for Action on Finance for Housing, Building and Planning,48
Taking into account the annual report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for 1970,49 in which the Bank, inter alia, considered that priority should be given to housing and human settlements,
Taking note of the policy statement on urbanization of 1972 of the International Bank for Reconstruction

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46 United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.I.A.18.
47 Resolution 2626 (XXV).
48 United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.IV.4.