



# **UNEP'S MANDATE IN DESERTIFICATION CONTROL**

**Prepared by**

**Tamirie Hawando**

**Consultant**

**in**

**Desertification (Land Degradation), Environment, Integrated Land Resource Management.**

**Nairobi, Kenya October 7, 1994**



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## OVERVIEW

### **General Assembly Resolutions, UNEP's Governing Council Decisions & Agenda 21**

UNEP's mandate for desertification control is based on almost twenty years of Governing Council and General Assembly Resolutions, frequently updated. These have been supplemented recently by resolutions of other groups such as AMCEN. Agenda 21, Chapters 12 and 38, in particular, also contain instructions for UNEP, as does the new Resolution for Urgent Action in Africa and the Convention text itself. A complete dossier of these resolutions and decisions are available as Annexes A, B, C and D.

A complete review of these resolutions has been made with a view to their implications and whether any have been clearly superseded, or whether modifications might be proposed to clarify or consolidate their effect. It is apparent that the recommendations of the Convention text, and of the Resolution for Urgent Action in Africa, tend to reinforce in many respects the previous mandate rather than replace it. The probable exceptions relate only to the mechanisms required for following the progress of the UN Plan of Action. The results of the review underway by ELI/PAC and DC/PAC will be incorporated in Annexes and the principal conclusions indicated in the final version of this section. The Annexes also contains a consolidated collection of abbreviated resolutions and articles from the General Assembly, the Governing Council, Agenda 21, Chapters 12 and 38 and the Convention and AMCEN. All of these relate closely either to UNEP or to desertification control, or specifically to both.

The key General Assembly Resolutions are to be found in Annex B. Based on the review of the General Assembly resolutions the principal demands from the GA on UNEP, with regard to desertification, apart from those relating to the UNPACD and related bodies, could be summarised as:

- Implementing UN PACD
- Mobilising Resources;
- Supporting UNSO (jointly with UNDP);
- Promoting the UN Trust Fund;
- Encouraging NGOs and
- Encouraging Research, assessment, information collection and exchange;
- Support Government to prepare National PACD

To these can be added the specific tasks allocated to UNEP under Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, most of which relate to desertification (since desertification control is essentially the sustainable management of dry land ecosystems) These are reproduced in Annex A but the following abbreviations cover the main points:

#### H. I. UNEP

"Priority areas on which UNEP should concentrate include the following from 38.24:

- (a) Strengthening its catalytic role
- (b) Promoting international cooperation in the field of environment and recommending environmental policies to this end;



- (c) Promoting natural resource accounting and environmental economics;
- (d) Environmental monitoring and assessment...expanded relations with ... scientific institutes; strengthening and making functional its early warning function;
- (e) Coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research;
- (f) Dissemination of environmental information and data;
- (g) Raising general awareness and action in the area of environmental protection;
- (h) Further development of international environmental law; the functioning of the secretariats of the Conventions; possible co-location of secretariats established in the future.
- (i) Information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, and provision of training;
- (j) Promotion of sub regional and regional cooperation, a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms
- (l) Supporting Governments, through provision of environmental, technical and policy advice during programme formulation and implementation;
- (m) Assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

38.23 "In order for UNEP to perform all of these functions, .. it would require access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources and it would require closer cooperation and collaboration with development and other relevant organs of the UN system.

UNEP should take steps to reinforce and intensify its liaison and interaction with UNDP and the World Bank".

Paragraph 38.27 deals with the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and states:

"The role of UNSO, with added resources that may become available, operating under the umbrella of the UNDP and with the support of UNEP, should be strengthened so that this body can assume an appropriate major advisory role and participate effectively in the implementation of Agenda 21 provisions related to combating drought, desertification as well as land resource management. In this context, the experience gained could be used by all other countries affected by drought and desertification, in particular those in Africa, with special attention to countries most affected or classified as least developed countries."



This paragraph was substantially endorsed in 1993 by the UNDP Governing Board and by the General Assembly (48/175).

There is more in 38.32: "There is need for closer cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, together with other relevant institutions, in the implementation of projects to halt environmental degradation or its impact, and to support training programmes in environmental planning and management for sustainable development at the regional level."

And again, in 38.34: "**Regional and sub-regional organisations should play a major role in the implantation of Agenda 21 provision related to combatting drought and desertification.** UNEP, UNDP and UNSO should assist and cooperate with those relevant organisations."

Chapter 12 of Agenda 21, Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought contains six principal programme areas covering desertification and drought:

- A Strengthening the knowledge base and developing information and monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought, including the economic and social aspects of these ecosystems.
- B Combatting land degradation through, inter alia, intensified soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities.
- C Developing and strengthening integrated development programmes for the eradication of poverty and promotion of alternative livelihood systems in areas prone to desertification.
- D Developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning
- E Developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes, including self help arrangements for drought prone areas and designing programmes to cope with environmental refugees areas and designing programmes to cope with environmental refugees <sup>(CERD)</sup>
- F Encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education, focusing on desertification control and management of the effects of drought.



## THE CONVENTION AND UNEP's MANDATES

This Annex is a consolidation of the requests of the Convention (in bold) with pre-existing requests (summarised) from General Assembly, (Referenced as GA below), Governing Council (GC), Agenda 21 Chapter (12), and Agenda 21 Chapter 38, Section H.1. UNEP, referenced as (38) below. See Section 1 and Annex A for complete texts.

**Article 9, Basic Approach, states in para 3: "The Parties shall encourage organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant organisations, academic institutions, the scientific community and non-governmental organisations in a position to cooperate, in accordance with their mandates and capabilities, to support the elaboration, implementation and follow-up of action programmes.**

38(m) Supporting Governments, through provision of environmental, technical and policy advice during programme formulation and implementation;

38(b) Promoting international cooperation in the field of environment and recommending .. environmental policies to this end;

12D Developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning

12B Combatting land degradation through, inter alia, intensified soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities

12C Developing and strengthening integrated development programmes for the eradication of poverty and promotion of alternative livelihood systems in areas prone to desertification.

12E Developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes, including self help arrangements for drought prone areas and designing programmes to cope with environmental refugees

38(n) Assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

38.32: "There is need for closer cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, together with other relevant institutions, in the implementation of projects to halt environmental degradation or its impact, ..."

INCD Draft Resolution on Urgent Action for Africa

Mechanism



Article 16, Information collection, analysis and exchange, states in part, that "The Parties agree.. that they shall, as appropriate: (a) facilitate and strengthen the functioning of the global network of institutions and facilities for the collection, analysis and exchange of information, as well as for systematic observation at all levels, which shall, inter alia: (i) aim to use compatible standards and systems; ... (iv) link national, sub-regional and regional data and information centres more closely with global information sources; ....

- 38(g) Raising general awareness and action in the area of environmental protection
- 12A Strengthening the knowledge base and developing information and monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought, including the economic and social aspects of these ecosystems.
- 38(d) Environmental monitoring and assessment ... expanded relations with ... scientific institutes; strengthening and making functional its early warning function.
- 38(f) Dissemination of environmental information and data

Article 17, Research and Development, states, in part, that "The Parties undertake, according to their respective capabilities, to promote technical and scientific cooperation in the fields of combatting desertification and mitigating the effects of drought through appropriate national, sub-regional, regional and international institutions. To this end they shall support research activities that: .....(Full text in Annex )

- 38(e) Coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research

Article 18, Transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology, states in part that "The Parties shall, in particular: (a) fully utilize relevant existing national, sub-regional, regional and international information systems and clearing houses for the dissemination of information on available technologies, their sources, their environmental risks and the broad terms under which they may be acquired"

- 38(j) Information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, and provision of training;

Article 19 Capacity building, education and public awareness, states in part: 3. The Parties shall cooperate with each other and through competent intergovernmental organisations, as well as with non-governmental organisations, in undertaking and supporting public awareness and educational programmes in both affected, and where relevant, unaffected country Parties to promote understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought and of the importance of meeting the objective of this Convention. To that end, they shall: (a) organize awareness campaigns for the general public...." etc etc.(see Annex for more)

United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification



- 12F Encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education, focusing on desertification control and management of the effects of drought.
- GA and GC Encourage NGOs
- GA and GC Note significance of NGOs and call for more involvement

**Article 19 also states: 4. The Conference of the Parties shall establish and/or strengthen networks of regional education and training centres to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. These networks shall be coordinated by an institution created or designated for that purpose, in order to ...." etc.**

- GA and GC Recommend increased support to regional research and information exchange centers.

38.32: "There is need for closer cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, together with other relevant institutions, in the implementation of projects .. to support training programmes in environmental planning and management for sustainable development at the regional level."

**Article 20, Financial Resources, states in part that: Parties undertake to: 2 (b) "promote the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility of the agreed incremental costs of those activities concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Instrument establishing the Global Environment Facility. (This relates to UNEP's role as a partner of the GEF)**

- GA and GC Assist in Mobilising resources
- GA and GC ED to push hard for financing.

**Article 21, Financial Mechanisms, states under 2. that "The Conference of the Parties shall also encourage the provision, through various mechanisms within the United Nations system and through multilateral financial mechanisms within the United Nations system and through multilateral financial institutions of support at national, sub-regional and regional levels to activities that enable developing country Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention."**

- GA Recommends increased support for UNSO
- GA Urges support for UN Trust Fund for Sudano Sahelian Activities.
- 38 "The role of UNSO, with added resources that may become available, operating under the umbrella of the UNDP and with the support of UNEP, should be strengthened

**Article 21 also establishes (under 4) "a Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization .. of financial resources .." The following clause 5 states that "The Conference of Parties shall identify, at its first ordinary session, an organization to house the Global Mechanism"**



**Article 25, Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies, states in part that 3. .. "the Conference of the Parties shall: (a) identify those national, sub-regional and international units that are most appropriate for networking, and recommend operational procedures, and a time frame for them; and (b) identify the units best suited to facilitating and strengthening such networking at all levels.**

GC (1992) Special session as strategy for 1990-1995 asks for assisting governments to create desert research centers network.

38(k) Promotion of sub regional and regional cooperation, a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms

GA and GC Intensify sub-regional cooperation

**Under the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa, Article 18, Coordination and partnership agreements**, states that 1. African country Parties shall coordinate the preparation, negotiation and implementation of national, sub-regional and regional action programmes. They may involve, as appropriate, other Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in this process."

They may ask the Secretariat to help them with the establishment of the consultative processes (para 3) and para 5

states: "Participation in the consultative groups shall, as appropriate, be open to Government, interested group and donors, relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, ..."

Agenda 21, Chapter 38 recommends that UNEP strengthen its regional offices without weakening Headquarters. The Regional Office for Africa is located at UN Headquarters in Nairobi.

Under the **Regional Implementation Annex for Asia, Article 8, Cooperative and coordination mechanisms**, para 2 states in part that "Affected country Parties, ... may involve, as appropriate, other Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in this process" (of coordination meetings).

Agenda 21, Chapter 38 recommends that UNEP strengthen its regional offices without weakening Headquarters. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is located Bangkok in Thailand.

AMCEN requests UNEP, OAU, ECA, ADB to continue close cooperation in combating desertification.

AMCEN requests UNEP to provide same level of technical and financial support and if possible increase the support in light of Agenda 21 support.

The **Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean** makes no specific requests. Under Article 6, **Financial resources and mechanisms**, however, the "affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly: ... (b) identify



international cooperation requirements in support of national efforts; (c) promote the participation of bilateral and/or multilateral financial cooperation institutions with a view to ensuring implementation of the Convention."

UNEP has a Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City. This deals with desertification in the region, often in close cooperation with FAO, particularly the FAO Office in Chile.

The **Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean** appears to make no direct or indirect specific demands on the international agencies. UNEP's European Office would be responsible for this if there were any call for support.

#### **ADDITIONAL MANDATES NOT COVERED ABOVE**

The only additional charges that UNEP has received that are not covered by the Convention relate to UNEP's catalyzing and cooperative role:

38(a) Strengthening UNEP's catalytic role

38(h) Further development of international environmental law;

the functioning of the secretariats of the Conventions; possible co-location of secretariats established in the future.

#### Inter-Agency Cooperation:

38 "UNEP should take steps to reinforce and intensify its liaison and interaction with UNDP and the World Bank".

38 "There is need for closer cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, together with other relevant institutions, in the implementation of projects to halt environmental degradation

38 UNEP, UNDP and UNSO should assist and cooperate with those relevant regional and sub-regional organisations.



## RESOLUTION ON URGENT ACTION FOR AFRICA

(Note: Paras of particular relevance to UNEP placed in bold in this copy)

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,

Having adopted the text of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Considering the priority given to Africa in the Convention and the need for urgent measures to be taken during the period between the adoption of the Convention and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, consistent with the objectives of the Convention,

Considering the significant activities already being undertaken by affected African countries with the support of the international community, consistent with the objectives of the Convention,

Considering further the desirability of initiating without delay the implementation of further measures consistent with the objectives of the Convention in and with the affected African countries and of continuing to pursue or strengthen, where necessary, such measures where they are already in place,

**Acknowledging with appreciation the preparatory and ongoing work carried out by affected African countries and the assistance provided by a number of countries, by multilateral organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sahelian Office (UNDP/UNSO), the African Development Bank (ADB), and intergovernmental organizations, including the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and non-governmental organizations.**

1. Encourages all countries to disseminate information and promote education and public awareness about the objectives of the Convention;

2. Invites the affected African countries to take urgent steps, in particular, to prepare national and subregional action programmes or, where action programmes exist, such as National Environmental Action Plans, to review and improve them, if necessary, and implement them, consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

3. Invites the developed countries to provide support to the affected African countries in such actions, including those in capacity-building;

4. Invites international and multilateral organizations, particularly UNDP, including UNSO, UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank, to provide support and mobilize necessary for the implementation of the present resolution;

5. Invites African subregional and regional organizations, particularly the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to



**provide support for the implementation of this resolution;**

6. **Invites** private-sector organizations, including relevant non-governmental organizations, to provide support and mobilize necessary resources for such actions by the affected African countries;

7. **Recommends** that the affected African countries designate coordinating bodies at the national and subregional levels, if necessary, and at the regional level for the implementation of this resolution;

8. **Recommends**, as priority, the establishment, at national and subregional levels, in the affected African countries, of partnership arrangements with the relevant developed countries, intergovernmental regional economic organizations, non-governmental organizations and representatives of the affected local populations to facilitate the coordination of activities, to be initiated by the individual African country concerned;

9. **Recommends also** that such partnership arrangement should inter alia:

(a) Provide support to proposals in the preparation of national, subregional and, to the extent possible, regional action programmes of the affected African countries;

(b) Where national action programmes exist, review them and consider action that may be needed to improve or reorientate them, as necessary;

(c) Improve coordination of effort at the national, subregional and regional levels, taking into account those programmes and projects to combat desertification that are in progress, including those supported by the international community;

(d) Provide support for the implementation of specific project proposals within the context of national, subregional and regional action programmes;

10. **Invites** the developed countries and the international and multilateral organizations, agencies and programmes to provide enabling funds to support the partnership arrangements referred to in paragraph 7 above;

11. **Invites** the affected African countries to provide information at the time of signing the Convention, on the actions that they have taken or propose to take, during the interim period, for the implementation of this resolution;

12. **Invites** the developed countries, subregional, regional, international multilateral organizations and United Nations agencies and programmes as well as those countries that may provide assistance on a voluntary basis, to provide information, at the time of signing the Convention, on the actions that they have taken or propose to take, including the provision of financial and other resources, during the interim period, for the implementation of the present resolution;

13. **Invites also** the affected African countries to propose, as appropriate, additional measures to be taken at the subregional and regional levels in support of national actions;

14. **Requests** the interim secretariat to the Convention to facilitate the implementation of the present resolution, consistent with the responsibilities allocated to it by the resolution of the Committee concerning interim arrangements;

15. **Invites** those countries that are members of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes and regional or multilateral financial institutions to bring to the attention of those institutions the content of the present resolution and promote their support for it.



**INCD SECRETARIAT REQUEST TO UNEP OCTOBER 1 1994**  
**PROPOSED UNEP ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DESERTIFICATION**  
**CONVENTION**

Support international efforts and consensus building

- o Facilitation of sub-regional action programme meetings
- o Support development of international waters portions of sub-regional action programmes.
- o Provide direct financial support to the INCD Secretariat

Support Convention implementation at local level

- o Establishment of Convention implementation modules in existing training programmes for environmental managers
- o Development of national sustainable development programmes with Convention action programmes as major component

Determine status and dynamics of drylands degradation

- o Investigation of climate/biodiversity/desertification linkages
- o Development of benchmarks, indicators and minimum data sets to track progress in combatting desertification
- o Building of capacity to collect and share data and to prepare scientific/technical portions of action programmes

Disseminate information

- o Funding and assistance through IUCC for Secretariat production of public awareness materials
- o World-wide public information programme
- o Development of techniques for getting information in usable form to local communities

Encourage people-oriented approaches

- o Financing for NGO network and attendance at INCD meetings
- o Assistance in "operationalizing" participation and putting concrete provisions on it in action programmes

Promote innovative approaches

- o Installation of communications facilities allowing all African countries to participate in computer networks

Finance desertification control

- o Conceptualization of approach for elaborating desertification control projects which meet GEF criteria



## ANNEX A

### AGENDA 21

#### CHAPTER 12, AGENDA 21

Agenda 21, Chapter 12, Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought contains six principal programme areas:

- A **Strengthening the knowledge base** and developing information and monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought, including the economic and social aspects of these ecosystems.
- B **Combatting land degradation** through, inter alia, intensified **soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation** activities
- C **Developing and strengthening integrated development programmes** for the **eradication of poverty and promotion of alternative livelihood systems** in areas prone to desertification.
- D **Developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes** and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning
- E **Developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief** schemes, including self help arrangements for drought prone areas and designing programmes to cope with **environmental refugees**
- F **Encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education**, focusing on desertification control and management of the effects of drought.

The six programme areas covered under **Chapter 12 of Agenda 21**. These are specific to desertification control, but they are not specific to UNEP only, in that they cover the whole field of actions recommended by whatever means is most appropriate. They do form a relevant **framework** for considering UNEPs desertification programme.

#### **MOBILISING RESOURCES**

**\*Assist in Mobilising resources**

**\*ED to push hard for financing!**

#### **CATALYSING COOPERATION**

(a) **Strengthening its catalytic role**

(b) **Promoting international cooperation in the field of**



environment and recommending .. environmental policies to this end;

- (k) Promotion of sub regional and regional cooperation, a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms

\*Intensify subregional cooperation

## INFORMATION ACQUISITION PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION

- (g) Raising general awareness and action in the area of environmental protection
- A Strengthening the knowledge base and developing information and monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought, including the economic and social aspects of these ecosystems.
- (d) Environmental monitoring and assessment ... expanded relations with ... scientific institutes; strengthening and making functional its early warning function.
- (e) Coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research
- (f) Dissemination of environmental information and data
- (j) Information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, and provision of training;

## PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

- (m) Supporting Governments, through provision of environmental, technical and policy advice during programme formulation and implementation;
- D Developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning
- B Combatting land degradation through, inter alia, intensified soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities
- C Developing and strengthening integrated development programmes for the eradication of poverty and promotion of alternative livelihood systems in areas prone to desertification.

\*Draft Resolution on Urgent Action for Africa



## DROUGHT

- E Developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes, including self help arrangements for drought prone areas and designing programmes to cope with environmental refugees
- (n) Assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

## PARTICIPATION

- F Encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education, focusing on desertification control and management of the effects of drought.

\*Encourage NGOs

\*Notes significance of NGOs and call for more involvement

## Agenda 21, Chapter 38

To these can be added the specific tasks allocated to UNEP under Chapter 38 of Agenda 21 which relate to desertification:

38.22 (a) **Strengthening its catalytic role** in stimulating and promoting environmental activities and considerations throughout the United Nations system

(b) **Promoting international cooperation** in the field of environment and recommending, as appropriate, environmental policies to this end;

(c) **Promoting natural resource accounting** and environmental economics

(d) **Environmental monitoring and assessment** both through improved participation by the UN system agencies in the Earthwatch programme and **expanded relations** with private scientific and non-governmental scientific institutes; strengthening and making functional its **early warning function**.

(e) **Coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research** with a view to providing a consolidated basis for decision making.

(f) **Dissemination of environmental information and data** to Governments and to organs, programmes and organisations of the UN system.

(g) **Raising general awareness** and action in the area of environmental protection through collaboration with the general public, non-governmental entities and intergovernmental institution;

(h) further **development of international environmental law**, in particular conventions and guidelines, promotion of its implementation, and coordinating functions arising from than increasing number of international legal agreements, **inter alia** the **functioning of the secretariats** of the Conventions, taking into account the need for the most efficient use of resources, including **possible co-location of secretariats** established in the future;

(i) facilitation of **information exchange on environmentally sound technologies**, including legal aspects, and **provision of training**;



(k) **promotion of sub regional and regional cooperation** and support to relevant initiatives and programmes for environmental protection including playing a major **contributing and coordinating** role in the regional mechanisms in the field of environment identified for the follow-up to UNCED;

(m) supporting Governments, upon request, and development agencies and organs in the integration of environmental aspects in to their development policies and programmes, in particular through **provision of environmental, technical and policy advice** during programme formulation and implementation;

(n) further developing **assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies**.

38.23 In order for UNEP to perform all of these functions, while retaining its role as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment and taking account the development aspects of environmental questions, it would **require access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources and it would require closer cooperation and collaboration with development and other relevant organs of the UN system**. Furthermore UNEP's regional offices should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi, and UNEP should take steps to reinforce and intensify its liaison and interaction with UNDP and the World Bank.

With reference to the **United Nations Development Programme**, paragraph 38.25 says that its role would include *inter alia* "(c) assisting recipient countries, upon request, in the establishment and strengthening of **national coordination mechanisms** and networks related to activities for the follow-up of the UNCED." This is of direct relevance to the Convention.

Paragraph 38.27 deals with the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and states: "**The role of UNSO, with added resources that may become available, operating under the umbrella of the UNDP and with the support of UNEP, should be strengthened** so that this body can assume an appropriate major advisory role and participate effectively in the implementation of Agenda 21 provisions related to combating drought, desertification as well as land resource management. In this context, the experience gained could be used by all other countries affected by drought and desertification, in particular those in Africa, with special attention to countries most affected or classified as least developed countries."

This paragraph was substantially endorsed in 1993 by the UNDP Governing Board and by the General Assembly (48/175).

There is more:

38.32 "There is need for **closer cooperation between UNEP and UNDP**, together with other relevant institutions, in the implementation of projects to **halt environmental degradation** or its impact, and to support training programmes in **environmental planning and management** for sustainable development at the regional level." And again..

38.34 **Regional and subregional organisations** should play a major role in the implementation of Agenda 21 provisions related to **combatting drought and desertification**. UNEP, UNDP and UNSO should assist and cooperate with those relevant organisations.



## ANNEX B

### SUMMARY OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS:

#### UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (G.A) RESOLUTIONS ON UNEP's MANDATE IN DESERTIFICATION CONTROL

##### **3054 (XXVIII) (1973)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON SAHEL REGION STRICKEN BY DROUGHT.**

(1) Request GC/UNEP to give priority to the search for medium and long term solution to the problems of desert encroachment in countries bordering Sahara and other areas with similar geographic conditions.

##### **3337 (XXIX) (1974)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

(1) Recognizes the urgent need to prepare a world integrated programme of development research and application of Science and Technology to solve special problems of desertification in all its ramifications and reclamation of land lost to desertification.

##### **32/170 (1977)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR THE BENEFIT (1977) OF THE SAHEL REGION**

(1) Stresses immediate implementation of PACD in Sahel region and relevant resolutions adapted by UN conference on Desertification. (2) Invites GC/UNEP to consider role and activities to competent existing organs in Sahel region to improve institutional arrangements and including establishment of subregional office to combat desertification.

##### **32/172 (1977)G.A. APPROVED THE REPORT OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION AND THE PLAN OF ACTION TO CONTROL DESERTIFICATION.**

(1) GC, to follow-up and coordinate PACD implementation (as per UNCOD Ch. VII). (2) GC to report through ECOSOC to GA 33 and every two years thereafter. (3) SG requested for further research, development and refinement of data. (4) IGOs and NGOs to participate in the PACD implementation and to coordinate their programmes/activities with global and regional programmes.

##### **33/89 (1978)G.A. RESOLUTION ISSUES ARISING FROM UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION**

(1) UNEP's leading role and close collaboration with FAO, UNEP, UNFPA in the PACD implementation satisfies GA. (2) Donors and financial institutions invited to



participate in DESCON and called upon to increase their financial and technical assistance. (3) SG to obtain gov't's views on the means for PACD financing.

**34/184 (1979)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND SPECIAL ACCOUNT TO FINANCE PACD IMPLEMENTATION**

(1) **Urgency of PACD implementation stressed.** (2) Special Account opening noted and Govt's called upon to contribute to the same. (3) Concern expressed on **no contributions to Special Account and in inadequate financial resources for PACD implementation.** (4) UNEP's coordination of PACD within UN appreciated. (5) **DESCON participation & support is called for,** and (6) **SG requested** with UNEP GC to report on international financing study.

**34/185 (1979)G.A. RESOLUTION ON RESTORATION AND IMPLEMENTION OF FOUTAH-DJALLON MASSIF- TO BE INCLUDED IN UNEP'S PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH OAU**

**34/185 (1979)G.A. RESOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD IN SAHEL REGION**

(1) **G.A. Satisfied with UNEP/GC programme on PACD implementation in Sahel-region** and commends ED/UNEP for effective co-ordination of UNSO joint venture programme and also UNSO's progress in implementing PACD. (2) **Invites GC/UNEP to include Djibouti, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau for assistance by UNSO** and report the action to GA 35 session. (3) Urges Gov., UN organ, intergov, NGO and individually through UNSO, DESCON, etc to support Sahel countries. (4) Requests GC to annually report on Sahel-region PACD to G.A.

**35/73 (1980) G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD**

(1) G.A.'s concern over constraints in PACD implementation. (2) **UNEP's catalytic role and coordination of UN efforts in PACD noted.** (3) Govs. invited to give **high priority to desertification control.** (4) **Establishment of UNSO Joint Venture by UNEP and UNDP reaffirmed.** (5) SG requested to **draw attention to the desertification threat and to mobilize international community to implement PACD.** (6) SG & ED of UNEP to **prepare feasibility studies on financing mechanisms.** (7) **UNEP to institute (with other UN bodies) specific programmes on research and training.** (8) GC of UNEP to continue report through ECOSOC every other year on PACD implementation.

**36/190 (1981)G.A. RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD IN SAHEL-REGION.**

(1) **UNSO J/V activities noted with satisfaction,** UNEP and UNDP Administrator commended on the J/V and its strengthening and Gratitude expressed to Govts. for their support to UNSO. (2) **Govts., UN, IGOs, NGOs urged to further support UNSO.**

**36/191 (1981)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD IN SAHEL-REGION**

(1) **Insufficient PACD financing noted with concern in Sahel region.**



**37/218 (1982)G.A. RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD IN SAHEL-REGION**

(1) Concern over **slow PACD implementation due to lack of funds**. (2) Govts. UN, IGOs, NGOs, etc. to increase their efforts to prevent and combat desertification (PACD). (3) **Affected govts. to give high priority** (in their economic development plans and aid requests) to **desertification control**.

**37/216 (1983)G.A. RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD IN SAHEL-REGION**

(1) UNSO J/V progress noted with satisfaction. (2) GCs of UNEP and UNDP invited to further strengthen the J/V. (3) Govts urged to respond positively to Sudano Sahelian requests.

**37/220 (1982)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON STUDY ON FINANCING UN PACD**

(1) Urges member states to provide **comments on feasibility studies and concrete recommendations for the Implementation and modalities for obtaining financial resources as described by S.G. annex report**.

**38/163 (1983)G.A. RESOLUTION ON FINANCING UN PACD.**

**Govts again requested to comment on the feasibility studies on UN PACD financing and on the Independent Financing Corporation.**

**38/164 (1983)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON PACD IMPLEMENTATION IN SAHEL-REGION.**

(1) UNSO J/V operation noted with satisfaction. (2) GCs of UNEP and UNDP to continue support J/V. (3) Gratitude expressed to Govts supporting UNSO's PACD, implementation and further support urged. (4) GC of UNEP to continue annual reporting on PACD implementation in the Sudano Sahelian region.

**39/168 (1984)G.A. RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD**

(1)Govts. to give priority for setting up national machineries for desertification control, and (2) GC to consider expansion of UNSO J/V to include Tanzania and SADC.

**40/198 (1985)G.A RESOLUTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF UN PACD.**

(A) (1) Recalls GA resolutions 39/29 on **declaration of critical economic situation in Africa**. (2) Notes with **dismay and grave concern on the continuing intensification of desertification, specially in Africa, human suffering, economic loss etc.** (3) Concern on the **slow PACD implementation** and Urges Govts., UN and other **organizations/agencies urged to give high priority and to intensify their efforts to combat desertification and to give highest priority to GC 13/30**. (4) Urges **governments of affected countries to give priority to PACD strategies**.

**40/198 (1985)GA RESOLUTION ON PACD IMPLEMENTATION IN SAHEL-REGION**

(B) (1) Notes **damage brought by drought in sub-sahara countries, inefficient financial resources to combat desertification**. (2) Satisfied with UNSO'S efforts under UNDP and UNEP joint venture. (3) **Endorses to add Tanzania in UNSO'S programme as per**



**GC recommendation** (4) Comments ED of UNEP and admins. of UNDP on joint venture to develop UNSO. (5) **Recommends GC'S of UNEP and UNDP to continue and increase their support to UNSO.** (6) Expresses gratitude to Gov, UN spec. agencies, intergov. organizations, etc for contribution towards UNSO. (7) Draws attention of **international community to increase support through UN trust fund for SAHEL- region and requests by countries.**

**40/209 (1985)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT**

(1) Existing mandates relating to desertification and drought emphasized. (2) SG requested to **report on desertification under item one: "Desertification and drought on odd years"**.

**41/455 (1986)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON DROUGHT**

Assistance to drought stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda endorsed and govts. called upon to participate in IGADD donors conference.

**41/456 (1986)G.A. RESOLUTION ON MAURITANIA**

Relevant UN orgs, including Habitat, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, and WB, should be invited to assist MAURITANIA to prepare a **multi-sectoral action plan to combat desertification and drought** (for consideration by the int. community).

**42/189A (1987)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UN PACD.**

(1) Govts., UN orgs. IGOs to intensify their efforts and to increase their assistance for combating desertification and to give high priority to PACD. (2) NGOs significant role noted and govts. asked to increase their participation. (3) **Affected govts. asked to accord a sustainable priority to medium and long term strategies and programmes to combat desertification and to (integrate them in national development plans).**

**43/none (1988)**

**44/172(1989)G.A. DEEPLY CONCERNED ON INADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR PACD IMPLEMENTATION**

(1) Urges Govts, UN orgs, IGOs to intensify efforts to **give highest priority to PACD recommendation.** (2) Invites ED to consult with int. orgs, foundation etc. to consider **desertification control on equal footing with other current environmental issues.** (3) Invites UNCED 1992 to **accord high priority to desertification (with a view to preserve ecological balance of the planet).** (4) Invites GC to contribute to UNCED discussions on desertification i.a. by making evaluation of PACD implementation, expert studies. (5) **Requests SG in consultation with ED to submit UNCED prepcom a report containing expert studies on:** - (a) new methods of finance; - (b) state of PACD implementation; - (c) ways and means to promote desertification combat technology; - (d) concessional financing possibilities; - (e) debt cancellation mechanisms in reducing impact of desertification - (f) strengthening and coordinating of activities of funds established for that purpose in various international institutions; - (g) ways to encourage



NGOs, individuals, foundations to finance training and research. (6) Calls upon **DESCON in cooperation with the ED, called upon to enhance awareness, to intensify its efforts to mobilize resources, to exchange information on research, national programmes and PACD implementation and to give opinions on actions (to be taken).** (7) GA deeply concerned about the worsened situation in the Sudano Sahelian region, the insufficiency of funds and battle with desertification affected countries asked to drive to mobilize funds. (8) Notes UNSOs sustainable development approach. (9) UNSO invited to intensify its efforts to mobilize resources to countries and to CILSS and IGADD. (10) UNSO to continue to support the Ministerial Conference for joint policy on desertification in CILSS, ECOWAS, Maghreb, COMIDES countries and to cooperate with SADC and UMA.

45/none (1990)

**46/161 (1991)G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD**

(1) GC 16/22 A to E endorsed. [This contained i.a. A: (i) invitation to govts. to accord high priority to implementation of PACD, (ii) request to ED to assist developing countries in combating desertification, (iii) request to ED to contribute to UNCED preparation by drafting and submitting the consolidated report, (iv) ED authorized to convene DESCON-8 to review the consolidated report before its submission to Prepcom. B: (i) DESCON to be changed to concentrate on information exchange and coordination reviewing PACD status, information exchange scientific research, national programmes, PACD implementation and advise an action against desertification, (ii) voluminous contributions, and necessary economic and financial conditions invited for PACD implementation, (iii) ED requested to expedite special studies on PACD financing, C: (i) UNSO's efforts commended; (ii) UNSO requested to strengthen its actions at national level; (iii) UNSO to contribute to UNCED preparation; (iv) ED authorized to continue J/V with UNDP and; (v) UNEP and UNDP to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for UNSO; D: (i) Definition of the concept of desertification underlined to take into account influence of climate and resilience of soils; (ii) Report on PACD evaluation to be forwarded to UNCED prepcom; (iii) ED to include revised recommendations in the GC's report to UNCED on the status of PACD implementation. E: (i) ED to expedite preparation of the comprehensive report; (ii) ED to strengthen DC-PAC.

**46/161 (1991)G.A. RESOLUTION ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT**

(1) Realls GA resolution 32/172, PACD establishment 44/228 on UNCED, 44/437 on Africa countries stricken by desertification and drought. (2) Concerned on seriousness of the problem of drought and desertification in many regions and combating land degradation in an integrated manner. (3) Reaffirms GA resolution 44/172 on implementation of PACD and invited UNCED through prepcom to accord high priority to desertification control. (4) Endorses SG report on Implementation of PACD in sahel and endorses UNEP's GC decisions of 16/22 A to E of 31 may 1991 and 91/41 of 24 june 1991. (5) Endorses prepcom decision to UNCED in which SG of conference was asked to present resource needs to implement PACD. (6) UNSO's continued substantial technical and financial assistance to countries welcomed. (7) UNSO



invited (within UNDP round-tables or WB consultant groups) to assist govts. to mobilize adequate resources for natural resource management and protection and for reversing the desertification process.

**47/191 (Dec, 1992) INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO FOLLOW UP THE UNCED AGENDA 21, CHAPTER 38 ON INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT.**

(1) UNCED Agenda 21, chapter 38 adoption. (2) International institutional arrangements endorsed: (a) CSD organization, (b) relations with other UN, (c) coordination within UN in line with Agenda 21, (d) UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD to examine relevant provisions of Ch. 38 of Agenda 21, (e) Reg. Commission, (f) Secretariat support.

**47/188 (1992) ESTABLISHMENT OF INCD FOR ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA**

(1) GA welcomes Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 managing fragile Ecosystems: Combating drought and desertification. (2) INCD establishment and its membership and decided. (3) GA invited UNDP, UNSO, UNEP, FAO, IFAD, WHO, WMO, UNCTAD, UNESCO and other relevant orgs. to contribute to INCD's work. (4) INCD secretariat to be appointed by SG (and rules and procedures to be drafted). (5) Establishment of a multidisciplinary Panel of Experts decided. (6) Funding decided to be through existing UN budget. (7) Urges Govts. regional economic integration organizations, NGOs to contribute generously to voluntary fund. (8) UN orgs, IGOs, regional/sub-regional organizations invited to participate actively. (9) States invited to organize activities to support the process. (10) UNSO invited to assist its mandate countries in the process. (11) NGOs invited to contribute constructively. (12) Chairman INCD requested to report to the Commission on sustainable development and other appropriate bodies. (13) SG requested to inform govts, IGOs, NGOs and scientific organizations about this resolution. (14) Secretary General to report to GA 48 session. (15) GA 48 agenda is to have item on the INCD under the item "Implementation of UNCED decisions and recommendations".

**47/191 (1992) G.A. RESOLUTIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOW UP UNCED**

(1) Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and Non-binding Forest statement endorsed. (2) Govts. UN orgs, IGOs, NGOs to take action on Agenda 21, Rio declaration and Forest statement, and all the concerned called upon to implement above.

**48/175 (1994) GA RESOLUTION ON LONG TERM PROBLEMS OF DROUGHT, DESERTIFICATION AND DEGRADATION OF SOIL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES WORLD-WIDE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES.**

(1) Importance of INCD negotiations stressed. (2) Notes UNSO's role in combating drought and in supporting African countries in INCD process. (3) Notes UNDP GC decision 93/33 on the strengthening of UNSO's role as a UNDP focal point for all matters related to desertification to enlarge UNSO's mandate to all countries, in







## ANNEX C

### SUMMARY OF UNEP'S GOVERNING COUNCIL

### DECISIONS ON DESERTIFICATION CONTROL

#### UNEP Governing Council Decisions on Desertification

**9/22 (1981) - Governing Council Notes Actions of UNEP, Govs. and other UN systems for the Implementation of PACD and ED Action for Implementing of GA Resolution 35/73.**

(1) Requests ED to extend assistance to affected countries and endorses ED idea to submit **comprehensive report on implementation of PACD and studies on Financial resources.**

**9/22 (1981) Application of GA 35/72 for - implementation of PACD in Sahel-region.**

(1) Satisfied with ED report PACD on implementation in Sahel and measures by Gov, UNEP, other UN organs and UNSO on behalf of UNDP. (2) Decides to include Benin to 18 Sahel countries to receive assistance from UNSO. (3) Authorizes ED to continue assisting UNSO in consultation with UNDP adminst. and operational costs of joint venture and

**10/14 (1982) G.C. Decision on Implementation of UN PACD**

(1) Urges ED in resource mobilization for implementation of projects and programmes for the implementation of PACD. (2) Urges Govs. UN Agencies, International bodies, NGOs, and other organizations to augment efforts towards combating desertification. (3) Urges Govs, **to respond to SG inquires in pursuance of GA 36/191 concerning study to financing PACD.** (4) Requests ED to take and use the results of meeting of government-designed experts on desertification in Americas and caribeans held in Mexico 8-12 Feb, 1982.

**11/17 (1983)(A) Deeply concerned on slow implementation of PACD.**

1. Invites GA to expand role of GC to include information exchange, 2. **Appeals to countries financial contribution to implement PACD,** 3. Requests ED to pursue and persuade Gov. to make their views known for financing for the implementation of PACD.

**11/7 (1983)(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF PACD IN SAHEL-RETION: Satisfied by UNSO progress in assisting Gov. on behalf of UNEP and UNDP**

1. joint venture in implementing PACD in Sahel-region: 2. Appeals to Gov. UN organ, and intergov, and NGO to **strengthen desertification control efforts in the Sahel region,** 3. Request ED to continue support of UNDP joint venture to Sahel-region, 4. Invites GA to consider:

(a) **Expand UNSO mandates to other areas with drought problems and (b) workout appropriate institutional and relevant arrangements that enable it to**



discharge additional responsibilities.

**12/10 (1984) GC DECISIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UN PACD**

1. Concerned with spread and intensity of desertification in developing countries and particularly in Africa, 2. Reconfirms validity PACD and general appropriateness of the institutional arrangements established by GA for follow up, 3. Endorses ED view to focus implementation on more affected areas offering best chances for substantial rehabilitation, 4. Appeals to all Gov. UN organ, intergov, and NGO to give financial and technical support to Sahel countries, 5. Satisfied with UNSO as UNEP and UNDP joint venture programme to implement PACD in 19 countries, 6. Requests ED to approve concrete financial programmes with specific goals to allow GC of UNEP and UNDP to measure UNSO achievements of implementation of PACD, 7. Decides Ghana and Togo assisted by UNSO in PACD implementation, 8. Urges Gov. of affected countries to establish national PACD and national machinery in accordance with ED's recommendations Chap VII sec. C, 9. Authorizes ED assistance to Gov. in their efforts in implementing PACD, 10. Urges Gov. examine ongoing desertification control activities, complete desertification assessment, establish monitoring mechanism, and review and revise impeding policies, 11. Reaffirms role of NGO in PACD implementation and UNEP catalytic, co-ordinating and assessing role of PACD implementation, 12. Calls for Financial assistance from all Developed countries for implementing PACD,

**13/30 (1985) (A) GC Decisions on Implementation of UN PACD**

1. Urges Gov, UN agencies, intergov. organ., training and research institutions to combat desertification, 2. Invites ED to consult with principle agencies funding desertification, WB, regional development Banks, UNDP, IFAD, ICAR and club du Sahel to ascertain how UNEP can assist those efforts and recommend to GC the co-operation efforts, 3. Invites consultative group to pursue vigorously its dual role contributing information, policy programme and programme priority guidance to ED within frame work of implementation of PACD, 4. Welcomes desertification branch to become programme activity center, 5. Approves work of interagency working Group on desertification, 6. Requests ED to invite International org. outside UN system to participate in working group and 7. Requests ED to include SADCC countries eligible to receive assistance through UNSO to combat desertification and urges ED to seek alternative sources of funding to assist SADCC in particular.

**13/30 (1985) (B) GC Decisions On Implementation of PACD in Sahal-Region**

1. Authorizes ED to continue support to UNSO, 2. Urges UNEP/ED and UNDP/Adminst. to consolidate achievements so far and intensify efforts to mobilize resources to implement PACD.

**14/15 (1987) (A) GC Decisions on ED's Report on implementation of UN PACD in 1985 and 1986.**

1. Authorizes ED to submit the report to GA 42 session through ESOCO.



**14/15 (1987) (B) Decision on Implementation of PACD in Sahel Region**

1. Notes ED's Reports on implementation of PACD in Sahel-Region in 1985 and 1986 and welcomes UNSO steps on behalf of UNEP toward implementation of PACD in 22 Sahel countries and neighbouring region, 2. Authorizes ED to continue support for the UNEP and UNDP joint venture programme and 3. Urges UNEP/ED and UNDP/Admins. to intensify efforts to mobilize Resources for continued assistance to the countries served by the office in combating desertification.

**14/15 (1987) (C) Decision on Implementation of PACD**

1. Commends ED endeavours to combat desertification at national, regional and global levels, 2. Recommends national plan of Action should be grass-root oriented for easy integration into national economic system, 3. Requests ED to apply criteria for selecting concentration countries in a flexible manner and requests ED to evaluate UNEP programmes operations of CDDC and UNEP/UNDP/WB tripartite experience of GEF and fully coordinating with UN regional commissions and other Intergov. bodies on development and finance in the concerned regions, 4. Invites UNSO to intensify its efforts to mobilize to continued assistance to mandated countries combating desertification, 5. Special accounts to finance PACD and 6. propose modification and redirection to strengthen the role of UNEP as an intellectual leader, co-ordinator of data base collection and analysis on desertification problems and formulation of long term strategies to combat desertification, 7. Urges UNEP to mobilize more funds through UN System and other funding agencies and work closely with concerned governments in planning strategies and plans to combat desertification, 8. Urges governments to support the national plans of action to combat desertification.

**14/15 (1987) (D) GC Decisions on Special Account to Finance the implementation of PACD**

1. Requests ED to discuss with governments the feasibility of adopting new and realistic approach that would encourage them and integral financial institutions to contribute directly to Special Account and 2. Requests ED to report on the results of the discussions to GC on 15 Session.

**15/27 (1989) (A) GC Decisions on the ED reports on Implementation of PACD in 1987 and 1988 and report of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination** 1. notes the follow-up of the implementation of PACD and is convinced combating desertification at national level in order to integrate measures that require nation-wide mobilization of institutional, human and financial resources and desertification remains unabated with its menacing impacts on food producing capacities, 2. Invites governments of countries prone to desertification to consider anti-desertification activities, such as: (a) Prepare National PACD, (b) ensure PACD is ecologically sound, technically feasible and socially acceptable; (c) appropriate resources needed; and (d) establish or strengthen central placed national machineries capable to mobilize national institutional resources for implementing PACD evaluating PACD. 3. Invites donor governments, inter-governmental bodies, aid agencies, NGO to accord high priority in their assistance to national PACD, 4. Commends Inter-agency working groups on desertification for its positive role in activities on desertification and arid lands are included in programmes of its member countries,



5. Requests Inter-agency group on desertification to implement the following measures to enhance its work: (a) **Include: in the agenda of its regular meetings reporting activities of member organizations relevant to implementation of PACD such as CGDC and regional bodies, permanent inter-state committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, SADCC, IGADD and the Dakar Ministerial conference on desertification.** (b) Ad hoc meeting be devoted to thematic joint programming;(c)Undertake joint inter-agency action to mobilize technical and financial resources to assist national activities to develop and implement national PACD; (d) **Collaborate with Inter-agency working Group on Desertification Ministerial Conference on the Environment with special reference to deserts and drylands.** 6. Requests ED to assist within available financial resources, countries prone to desertification at their request in developing National PACD, 7. Requests ED to include proposed programme of UNEP for 1990-1991 activities on pastoral nomadism under sub-programme "Arid lands and desertification to assist 2 to 3 countries in Asia and Africa implement pilot projects,

**15/27 (1989) (B) GC Decisions for financing and other measures in support of the plan of Action to Combat Desertification**

(1) **Recommends to GA that the UN Special Accounts to finance the implementation of PACD be abolished,** (2) **Recommends GC-DC should sessions every two years (even numbered years starting in 1990) to review status of PACD and extent of scientific research in this field on national programmes, implementation of PACD and advise further action against desertification.** (3) Invites Internal community to pledge voluntary contributions to local national, and regional mechanism for implementing PACD.

**15/27 (1989) (C) GC Decisions on Implementation of PACD in Sahel-region**

Transmission to GA of the ED report and draft resolution on PACD including review of efforts undertaken in respect of the Special Account an additional measures to finance PACD, enhance efficiency of DESCON, enhance work of Inter-agency Working Group on implementation of PACD in Sahel to GA 44 Session, (2) Recommends draft resolution on PACD annexed to the present decision to GA for its consideration and adoption.

**16/22 (1991) (A) GC Decisions GC Decisions on ED's report on implementation of 1989 and 1990 PACD and reports of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination dealing with coordination and follow up of the implementation of PACD.**

1. Reaffirmed PACD as an appropriate instrument to assist governments to develop programmes for arresting the process of desertification and combating desertification at national level: (a) should involve traditional systems used by local people and (b) establish effective institutional machinery to integrate PACD into national development plans and priorities, 2. Encouraged ongoing efforts to compile a global assessment of desertification and mapping of thematic indicators of desertification at global, regional and national levels.



**16/22 (1991) (B) GC Decision Financing and other measures in support of PACD**

1. Recommends pending GA action on UNEP, mandate of DESCON should be changed to concentrate on information exchange and co-ordination, reviewing the status of PACD and implementation of PACD and advising further action against desertification,

**16/22 (1991) (C) GC Decisions on implementation of PACD in Sahel regions 1989 and 1990:**

1. Commends UNSO on steps taken on behalf of UNEP to implement PACD in 22 Sahel countries in particular in areas of sustainable development and natural resources management, 2. Requests UNSO to strengthen its role at national level to assist governments, to incorporate PACD into national development plans, strengthen relevant institutions, implement replicable integrated projects, **make sure symptoms and causes of desertification are addressed**, 3. Authorizes to continue support to UNSO joint venture with UNDP, 4. Invites UNEP/ED and UNDP Administrator to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to countries served by UNSO, 5. Notes the report of ED on the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the PACD and underlines need for further refinement of the definition of the concept of desertification,

**16/22 (1991) (E) GC Decisions on the Implementation of PACD**

1. Requests ED to expedite the comprehensive implementation of GA resolution (44/172 of 1989) as GA requested SG in co-operation with ED 2. Requests ED to take appropriate measures to strengthen DC-PAC to be able to discharge effectively and efficiently its responsibilities.

**UNEP/GCSSI February 1992 GC Special Session Decisions on Arid lands ecosystems management for sustainable productivity, prevent advance of desertification, where possible, reclaim decertified land.** 1. GC addressed marginal achievements of PACD compared to the magnitude of land lost through desertification of an estimated rate of 6 million ha. reduced the negative net economic productivity as a result of desertification and its continued spread, 2. **Strategy for the period 1990-1995.** The main thrust of the strategy lies in: (a) encouraging the application of existing knowledge and experience in desertification control (b) co-ordination and mobilization of the support of the United Nations system and the rest of the international community to reinforce bilateral and multilateral assistance programme; (c) tackling desertification through an integrated, multidisciplinary approach; (d) concentration on the most seriously threatened areas, and on those areas most likely to offer the best chances for success; (e) supporting Governments in developing national action plans and subregional programmes for combating desertification; (f) raising awareness of the magnitude of the problem and the proper utilization of human resources; (g) assisting concerned Governments in establishing desert research centres, so as to create a network of such centres.

**UNEP/GCSS/II February 1992 GC Special Session Decisions**

1. Recognizes that desertification is an issue which must be primarily combated at national level, the issue should also review attention at international forums and assistance to affected countries should be promoted and facilitated, 2. Stresses



importance of observation and research networks and in that context the planned observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel, 3. Recommends that **Preparatory Committee review the situation with respect to desertification, deforestation and land degradation** giving special attention to utilization of marginal resources with a view to recommending specification and specific period indicating costs and identifying sources to meet the cost with aim of the conference adopting appropriate recommendations.

**UNEP/GCSS/III February 1992 GC Special Session Decision on Status of Desertification and implementation of UN PACD.**

1. Recognizes ED report on Status of desertification and implementation of UN PACD and recognizes **Desertification: (a) of process of land degradation resulting mainly from adverse human activities on arid lands, through complex interactions among several physical biological and socio-cultural factors of local, national and global level (b) is global phenomena requiring global response and it occurs in all continents and affecting 60% of the world countries. (c) cost of anti-desertification measures is escalating from year to year. (d) continuously expanding it involves 73% of rangelands, 47% of rainfed croplands and 30% of irrigated land in drylands and affects 3.6 billion ha of total world dryland area 25%, of the total world land, 900 million people(1/6 of the world's population).** 2. **Deeply concerned on impact of desertification in Africa, seriously contributing to famine (1984/85) affecting between 30 to 35 million people in 1991.** 3. Recommends governments attending UNCED to consider combating desertification with maximum cost-effectiveness, actions and required with the following priorities: (a) **First priority action at global scale estimated to cost 1.4-4.2 billion US\$ per year for 20 years for combating land degradation in non-degraded lands or slightly degraded lands.** (b) **Second priority cost between 2.4 to 7.2 billion US\$ per year for twenty years for implementing corrective measures and sustaining the productivity of moderately degraded dry lands.** (c) **third priority costs between 6.2 to 11 billion US\$ per year for rehabilitation of severely and very severely degraded dry lands.** 5. Recommends that Gov. identifies ways and means to provide adequate and new additional financial resources and technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology. 5. Strongly the commands of Agenda 21, UNCED should address desertification and necessity of funding. 6. Strongly recommends International cooperation to combat desertification and strengthen the following areas: (a) **Develop anti-desertification technologies.** (b) **Develop pricing and Trade policies.** (c) **Provision of technical assistance appropriate training programme.** (d) **Develop appropriate dryland management systems.** (e) **Monitor desertification and anti-desertification activities at global and regional levels.** (f) **Information exchange and transfer.** (g) **Develop national legislation.** 9. Request ED to give: (a) **Strong emphasis to DC/PAC of UNEP to refine the assessment of the status of desertification, especially at regional and national levels. Promote adoption and monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy guideline and course of Actions presented in Chapter III of Ed report.- assigning bench works and indications of progress.** (b) **Report on the implementation of the present decision to the GC at its 17 regular session.**



**17/19(1993) (A) G.C. Decision 17/19 (May 1993) on Implementation of PACD in 1991-1992**

1. Reaffirms its conviction that PACD is one appropriate instrument to assist Gov. to develop **National PACD and this has contributed essential elements to chapter 12 of Agenda 21.** 2. Notes EDs 1991/92 reports on the implementation of PACD and compatibility of actions taken with recommendations of chapter 12 of Agenda 21; authorizes ED to submit the report to GA 48 Session through ESC. 3. Encourages ongoing UNEP efforts to define appropriate methodologies for monitoring and assessment of desertification, mapping desertification thematic indicators and assign bench mark and progress indicators for desertification control. 4. Requests UNEP to provide information gathered as a result of efforts indicated on 3 above to Gov. of the countries from which has been collected. 5. Encourages UNEP to **continue to compile, disseminate and catalyze further develop successful desertification control projects designs and implementation methodologies including model landuse and social economic development programmes for marginal drylands and use food aid in drought relief and refugee rehabilitation programme.** 6. Requests ED to continue to promote internal cooperation and intensify and expand UNEP regional/sub-regional venture for implementation of PACD as recommended in chap. 12 of Agenda 21, especially in capacity building, training, research and technology formulation and implementation of national PACD. 7. Calls upon UN agencies and organ. concerned to reinforce their involvement in implementation of PACD. 8. Requests ED to cooperate fully in preparation of IACD, **inter alia**, by making available Scientific and technical resources of the Secretariat.

**17/19 (1993) (B) G.C. Decisions on Financing and other measures in support of the PACD.**

1. Notes **discontinuation of Special Account and Consultative Group on Desertification and decision of participants in GEF in ongoing process of restructuring GEF that land degradation in activities related to GEF are eligible for funding from the Facility.** 2. Requests ED to intensify UNEPs interaction with UNDP and WB on this issue. 3. Invites internal finance institutions and Government to actively support practical measures aimed at implementing PACD and provisions of Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 and regional financial institutions to do the same.

**17/19 (1993) (C) G.C. Decisions on Implementation of PACD in Sahel-countries**

1. Notes ED reports on implementation of PACD in 1991- 1992 in Sahel countries and authorizes ED: (a) to continue supporting UNSO at least until conclusions of INCD convention becomes clear. (b) to request UNSO to continue its activities at national and local levels to assist Gov. in the region to develop National PACD and to co-ordinating with other agencies involved in the implementation of national strategies for sustainable development. 2. Requests ED in consultation with UNDP Admin. to amend terms of reference of the joint venture of UNEP and UNDP to allow UNSO **to intensify in desertification control activities in the countries in the region.** 3. Requests ED in consultation with UNDP/Admin. in response to chapt. 38 of Agenda 21, subject to outcome of INCD, to consider strengthening their efforts to **establish joint support mechanism for implementing chapt.12 Agenda 21 in other**



**regions /subregions affected by desertification, capitalizing on UNEP/UNDP/WB tripartite experience of GEF and fully coordinating with UN regional commissions and other Intergov. bodies on development and finance in the concerned regions.**  
**4.Invites UNSO to intensify its efforts to mobilize to continued assistance to it mandated countries combating desertification.**



## ANNEX D

### AMCEN'S REQUESTS

The Governing Council of UNEP in its Decision of 14/15 of 1987 recalled its Decision 13/6 of 23 May 1985 on environmental conference of AMCEN and noted the resolutions contained in the reports of the first and second sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held respectively at Cairo, from 16 to 18 December 1985, and at Nairobi, from 4 to 6 June 1987;

GC welcomed the Cairo programme for African co-operation adopted by the African ministerial Conference on the Environment at its first session, as it is directly relevant to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, adapted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session. The GC requested the Executive Director to provide technical and financial support within available resources to those activities of the Cairo programme for African co-operation selected for priority implementation. ADALCO is one of the activities of AMCEN that DC/PAC is acting as secretariat in support of AMCEN.

AMCEN expresses appreciation to the Executive Heads of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank for the progress report on the status of Africa's inputs to the intergovernmental negotiating committee for a convention on desertification and urges them to continue the close cooperation with the ministerial conference on this matter;

And AMCEN further requests the United Nations Environment Programme to provide the same level of technical and financial support to the Conference and if possible to increase it in the light of Agenda 21 challenges.

The following requests from African Ministerial Conference on the Environment can be included to the UNEP's mandates on desertification control. AMCEN's requests are related to successful implementation of the INCD convention agreement for the urgent action in Africa for **preventing and reversing desertification mitigating the impacts of drought.**

As per the requests of AMCEN, UNEP's ACTION plan for support is indicated below:

1. Assistance to African countries within the framework of negotiations for the international convention to combat desertification;
2. **Establishment of national desertification monitoring systems and links to regional systems**, including the authorities and NGO's development of anti-desertification action plans as integral parts of National development plans; strengthening sub-regional programmes to combat drought and desertification;



land degradation and human conditions database; and establishment of indications and benchmarks for assessing progress in the implementation of desertification control and drought mitigation programmes at both the national and sub-regional levels.

3. **Establishing the status of desertification and drought in Africa.**
4. Promotion of information exchange and general awareness-raising on desertification control and drought mitigation issues;
5. Assistance to countries in the **drylands of Africa in formulating integrated national and sub-regional strategies to combat land degradation and to alleviate the impact of drought.**

**Effective implementation of the urgent action for Africa will require:**

1. the mobilisation of the different actors (government ministries, local authorities, local populations, NGO's donors, research and training institutions);
2. a coordinated strategy at national, sub-regional and regional levels to identify and launch a series of critical actions and measures relating to the action programme processes, funding arrangements and coordination mechanisms;
3. prompt confirmation of partnership arrangements to facilitate the mobilisation of the financial resources needed to initiate the preparation and early implementation of action programmes.

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(as of Oct. 7, 1994)

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR

### DR. TAMIRIE HAWANDO

With respect to UNEP's desertification programme, the consultant will:

1. Review all relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and extract relevant instructions on desertification in general and for UNEP in particular. Produce a document combining these in a format consistent with the work already done by Mr. Cardy.
2. Do the same review of all UNEP Governing Council Decisions and produce the same kind of consolidated output.
3. Review any other International Conventions which may incorporate consideration or recommendations on desertification and extract that information and present it as above.
4. Produce a summary (one page) of the main mandates overall as he sees them.
5. Read and prepare comments IPCC's report on Climate Change Drought and Desertification, and the UNEP/WMO publication of desertification and climate and write a comparative analysis (not more than two pages) and draft a response letter to IPCC for Mr. Cardy's signature.
6. Carryout such other tasks as may be agreed between the Consultant and the Director within the time available.

