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General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 January 2003



Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (e)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add 5)]

57/260. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 56/197 of 21 December 2001 on the Convention on Biological Diversity¹

Reaffirming that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Underlining the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, their development and wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, their protection subject to national legislation, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their commercial use, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development² and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation").³

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 7 to 26 April 2002,

Also expressing its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004,

1 *Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;*⁴

2. *Notes the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,*⁵ *hosted by the Government of the Netherlands from 7 to 19 April 2002;*

3. *Also notes the outcome of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 22 to 26 April 2002;*

4. *Welcomes the fact that one hundred eighty-five States and one regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,*¹ *and urges States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it;*

5 *Invites parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity*⁶ *as soon as possible;*

6. *Reiterates the importance of the decision of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to examine, through the World Trade Organization Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights*⁷ *and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge,*

7. *Recalls the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries and includes actions at all levels, and in this regard calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support to developing countries, and stresses the importance of the effective use of resources;*

8. *Also recalls the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,*⁸ *an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. And invites the Conference of the Parties to take appropriate steps in this regard;*

⁴ See A/57/220

⁵ Bearing in mind the procedural concerns of some States relating to decision VI/23 and in this regard noting the deliberations and decisions of the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to addressing these concerns at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see paras 294–324 of the report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Montreal, Canada, on 23 and 24 September 2002).

⁶ See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr 1, part two, annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1869, No. 31874

⁸ Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization (decision VI/24 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity)

9. *Further recalls* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to implement the expanded action-oriented work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on all types of forest biological diversity, in close cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other forest-related processes and conventions, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

10. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁹ the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa¹⁰ and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages continued cooperation to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to work closely with the Global Environment Facility and other relevant institutions to help developing countries to build the required national capacities to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including in the areas of risk assessment and risk management;

12. *Welcomes* the launching of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House, and calls for strengthened international support for developing countries to build their national capacities to interact with it and to benefit from its expeditious strengthening so that it becomes fully functional at the time of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for a substantial increase in financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

14. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

*78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (f)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.6)]

57/262. Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-second special session,¹ and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000 and 56/198 of 21 December 2001, and recalling further the Declaration of Barbados² and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁵ the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, and the call for the General Assembly to consider convening an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,⁶

¹ See resolution S-22/2, annex.

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ TD/390.

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizing the importance of issues related to small island developing States within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

Recognizing also the significant efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

Reiterating the importance of the vulnerability index as a tool for assessing, and thereby addressing, the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well as identifying the challenges to their sustainable development,

Recognizing the relevance of such work to the mandate of the Committee for Development Policy concerning criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of the least developed countries,

Noting the efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, inter alia, through the provision of adequate financial and technical support,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the technical and financial support of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,⁷ as well as the partnership initiatives presented by small island developing States and their organizations during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Noting in this regard the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the Summit, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting the interregional meeting of the Alliance of Small Island States held in preparation for the Summit from 7 to 11 January 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁸
2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³ and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session¹ to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;
3. *Welcomes* the efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions and organizations, to undertake concrete measures, within their respective mandates, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the context of their programmes;

5. *Decides* to convene an international meeting in 2004, which will include a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,⁹ and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the international meeting;

6. *Also decides* that the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 5 above should seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to, and should focus on, practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

7. *Further decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and regional levels and to identify and develop input for the above-mentioned review that is specific to small island developing States, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

8. *Welcomes* the initial efforts of the small island developing States to develop the national and regional modalities necessary for the regional preparatory meetings, and calls upon the United Nations system in general and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in particular, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the multilateral financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, to put in place modalities at the international level that will facilitate the meetings referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above in a timely manner;

9. *Requests* that, in facilitating the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the United Nations system seek country input that is short and well-focused and that draws upon, inter alia, material prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in order to minimize the burden on participating States while maximizing the usefulness of the information gathered;

10. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

11. *Invites* all Member States and States members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations and the major groups identified in Agenda 21,¹⁰ in accordance with the rules of procedure of

⁹ See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.L/A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 61.

¹⁰ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.L.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II. The major groups are women, young people, indigenous people and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, including transnational corporations, the scientific and technological community, and farmers.

the Commission on Sustainable Development¹¹ and the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,¹² as well as the established practices of the Commission, to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action and in the preparations for the comprehensive review,

12. *Invites* all international meetings of relevance to small island developing States, including the regional and interregional meetings of small island developing States, to provide relevant input into the comprehensive review and its preparatory process;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 56/198, to give further consideration to strengthening the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, inter alia, through the regularization of the current post of Interregional Adviser for Small Island Developing States at the earliest opportunity, thereby enabling the Unit to assist in the preparations for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

14. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action, and in the preparatory process therefor, as observers, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in 1994, and in the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, held in 1999 to review the implementation of the Programme of Action;

15. *Decides* to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, including the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the international meeting referred to in paragraph 5 above, as well as in the various preparatory processes referred to in paragraph 7 above, and invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the major groups accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development to contribute to the fund,

16. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, by 2004, the work on the vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002*





General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (f)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.6)]

57/261. Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹ and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados² and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,⁴

Taking into account all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999 and 55/203 of 20 December 2000,

Taking into account also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁵ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁶

Noting with interest the respective partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴ See resolution S-22/2, annex.

⁵ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁷ which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,⁸

Recalling the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,⁹ which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Welcoming the adoption, on 6 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities¹⁰ to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Welcoming also the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife¹⁰ to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and climate variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

⁷ See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

⁸ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

¹⁰ Available on the Internet at www.cep.unep.org/law/sub_law/htm.

Underlining the importance of the ongoing work of the working group on climate change and natural disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Recognizing the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of resolutions GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000¹¹ and GC(46)RES/9 of 20 September 2002¹² of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Welcoming the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative to further advance the implementation of resolution 55/203, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the

¹¹ See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Forty-fourth Regular Session, 18–22 September 2000* (GC(44)/RES/DEC(2000)).

¹² *Ibid.*, *Forty-sixth Regular Session, 16–20 September 2002* (GC(46)/RES/DEC(2002)).