

## UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The General Assembly included the item “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind” in the agenda of its forty-third session, following an initiative by the Government of Malta (A/43/241). By resolution 43/53 on 6 December 1988, adopted under that item, it recognized *inter alia* that “climate change is a common concern of mankind” and determined that “necessary and timely action should be taken to deal with climate change within a global framework”.

On 21 December 1990, recalling the latter resolution, as well as resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989 under the same item, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/212, by which it decided to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change and any related instruments as might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject. In the same resolution, the General Assembly considered that these negotiations should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (convened the previous year pursuant to resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989) and opened for signature during the conference.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations and specialized agencies, met in four sessions between February and December 1991 (First session: Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991 (see report in A/AC.237/6); Second Session: Geneva, 19-28 June 1991 (see report in A/AC.237/9); Third session: Nairobi, 9-20 September 1991 (see report in A/AC.237/12/Corr.1); Fourth session: Geneva, 9-20 December 1991 (see report in A/AC.237/15)). By resolution 46/169 of 19 December 1991, the General Assembly urged the Committee to expedite and successfully complete the negotiations in time for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and decided that the Committee’s fifth session should be held in early 1992. Pursuant to that resolution, the Committee held its fifth session in New York, in two parts, from 18 to 28 February and from 30 April to 9 May 1992, to complete the Framework Convention (see reports in A/AC.237/18 (Parts I and II)). On 9 May 1992, the Committee agreed upon and adopted the text of the Convention (see A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1) and recommended it for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development took place in Rio de Janeiro from 4 to 14 June 1992. The Chairman of the Committee submitted, on behalf of the Committee, a report on the outcome of the work of the Committee (A/CONF.151/8, 1 June 1992), which he introduced to the Main Committee of the Conference on 3 June 1992. The Convention was opened for signature at the Conference and, by the end of the Conference, on 14 June 1992, it had been signed by 154 States and one regional economic integration organization. The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1994, in accordance with its article 23, paragraph 1.

By resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption of the Convention and *inter alia* decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to function in order to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties as specified in the Convention and, in that context, to contribute to the effective operation of the interim arrangements set out in

article 21 of the Convention (see also resolution 49/120 of 19 December 1994). The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee thus continued its work and held six additional sessions (Sixth session: Geneva, 7-10 December 1992 (see report in A/AC.237/24 and Corr.1); Seventh session: New York, 15-20 March 1993 (see report in A/AC.237/31); Eighth session: Geneva, 16-27 August 1993 (see report in A/AC.237/41); Ninth session: Geneva, 7-18 February 1994 (see report in A/AC.237/55); Tenth session: Geneva, 22 August - 2 September 1994 (see report in A/AC.237/76 and Corr.1); Eleventh session: New York, 6-17 February 1995 (see report in A/AC.237/91 and Add.1)). As decided by the General Assembly in resolution 48/189, The Conference of Parties held its first meeting in Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995.