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Agenda item 16

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Argentina, Japan, Norway, Yugoslavia: draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, established by General Assembly resolution 2581 (XXIV), has initiated its work with a constructive and productive session in March 1970 (A/CONF.48/PC6),

Further noting that the Preparatory Committee at that session on the basis of a sectorial review of environmental problems which serves to define the total scope and subject matter of the Conference, recommended possible types of action to be taken in the context of the Conference at the national, regional and international level,

Noting with appreciation the steps that have been taken by a number of specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist in the preparatory work,

Stressing the need for vigorous pursuance of the preparations for the Conference,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2398 (XXIII) and 2581 (XXIV),

1. Takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General regarding the present stage of the preparations for the Conference (E/4828);

2. Reaffirms the action-oriented character of the Conference;

3. Looks forward with interest to the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning priorities in drawing up the agenda for the Conference;

4. Agrees with the Preparatory Committee that, at its second session, it should discuss the preparation of draft recommendations, agreements and conventions for consideration by the Conference, taking into account the various economic, social and other aspects involved

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5. Believes it essential that, when drawing up the agenda for the Conference, due account is taken of such environmental problems as are particularly acute in developing countries and relevant to their needs;

6. Reiterates that in order for the Conference to achieve its objectives, it is essential that its agenda be selective, its organizational structure be simple and efficient, and that the documentation be kept reasonably limited;

7. Expresses the strong hope that the preparations for the Conference and the Conference itself will promote, in particular, the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade by contributing to sound economic and social development;

8. Stresses the value of national reports and case studies for governments both as a means of collecting important information for the Conference and of helping them to evaluate, and to take steps to improve, their own situation and recommends to governments to make every effort to prepare national reports and submit proposals for case studies within the time limits set by the Secretary-General;

9. Recommends that the Conference should be presented with a draft declaration on the human environment, which should be a document of basic principles in regard to the human environment, and that careful preparations of the declaration should be initiated on the basis of the suggestions in the report of the Preparatory Committee at its first session;

10. Underlines that, in conformity with ECOSOC resolution 1448 (XLVII), all efforts should be made to keep the financial implications to the minimum compatible with the task of fulfilling the objectives of the Conference;

11. Recommends that the second session of the Preparatory Committee take place early in 1971 in Geneva in view of the need to ensure the closest possible co-operation with the specialized agencies in drawing up the agenda for the Conference;

12. Invites the Secretary-General to make his report to the second session of the Preparatory Committee available to the members of the Preparatory Committee not later than six weeks before that session;

13. Recommends to the Secretary-General that he arrange for an informal meeting with the members of the Preparatory Committee in New York in September 1970 for an exchange of views concerning his plans, in particular for the agenda of the Conference;

14. Recommends that the following session or sessions of the Preparatory Committee be held later in 1971 at a place or places to be determined by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

15. Recommends to the Secretary-General that he investigate immediately the possibilities of providing assistance to developing countries for the preparation of national reports and case studies;

16. Requests the regional economic commissions to report at their earliest convenience within the framework of the preparations for the Conference on their on-going and planned activities in the environmental field, and to co-operate closely in these preparations;

17. Calls upon governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to give all possible support to the Secretary-General and the Preparatory Committee in their efforts to prepare effectively for the Conference.