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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Emerging policy issues: environment in the multilateral system

**Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth
session of relevance to the United Nations Environment
Programme**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The annex to the present note highlights some resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, along with several resolutions adopted during the latter part of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. The annex highlights the General Assembly resolutions which are of high relevance to UNEP, including those grouped in conformity with the six subprogrammes of the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011.

It should be noted that at the time of preparation of the present note the resolutions summarized herein had not yet been formally edited. The resolutions as they appeared at that time might therefore differ in certain non-substantive respects from the resolutions as they appear after editing.

* UNEP/GCSS.XI/1.

Annex

Highlights of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session

Introduction

1. At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted, from September to December 2009, a total of 249 resolutions. About 70 of those resolutions highlight diverse environmental and sustainable development issues. A significant number of them are of direct relevance to the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The resolutions are particularly relevant to the 2010–2011 UNEP programme of work and its six subprogrammes: environmental governance, ecosystem management, climate change, disasters and conflict, harmful substances and hazardous waste, and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production. Of immediate interest is resolution 64/236, providing for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012. In addition, the General Assembly adopted a series of administrative and budgetary resolutions.
2. Among the resolutions adopted at the sixty-fourth session are resolutions 64/204, on the report of the UNEP Governing Council on its twenty-fifth session, 64/73, on protection of the global climate for present and future generations, 64/206, on promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, 64/201, on the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020), and 64/195, on the oil slick on Lebanese shores. Many other resolutions acknowledged the work of UNEP, including resolution 64/71, on oceans and the law of the sea, and 64/212, on science and technology for development.
3. Harmony with nature, water resources management, sustainable mountain development, natural disasters and women in development are some of the issues highlighted in resolutions of the sixty-fourth session.
4. The General Assembly declared, in various resolutions adopted at its sixty-fourth session, a number of international days to be observed annually to highlight diverse issues of international significance. Among the days which will now be observed each year are International Nelson Mandela Day, to be observed on 18 July in recognition of Mr Mandela's contributions, particularly in the areas of conflict resolution, race relations, human rights promotion, reconciliation and gender equality; International Day Against Nuclear Tests, on 29 August, which will be devoted to enhancing public awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions; and International Day for Disaster Reduction, on 13 October.
5. Also in 2009, the General Assembly adopted at its sixty-third session resolution 63/303, on the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which cites green economy initiatives as part of the solution, and resolution 63/281, on climate change and its possible security implications.
6. The pace at which the General Assembly conducted business at its sixty-fourth session and the diversity of the issues and challenges that it tackled to the end of December 2009 emphasize the urgency with which the international community is trying to resolve both long-standing and emerging issues of both global and national significance. The following chapters summarize relevant General Assembly resolutions in the context of the six UNEP subprogrammes, highlighting not only the diversity and breadth of the issues addressed by the General Assembly but also their significance to UNEP. All resolutions adopted by the General Assembly between September and December 2009 will be available online during 2010 at <http://www.un.org/ga/64/resolutions.shtml>.

I. Resolutions relevant to the UNEP environmental governance subprogramme

A. Resolution 64/204: Report of the UNEP Governing Council on its twenty-fifth session

7. In resolution 64/204 the General Assembly took note of UNEP Governing Council decision 25/4 of February 2009, by which the Governing Council established a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives tasked with preparing a set of options for improving international

environmental governance for the consideration of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session with a view to providing inputs to the United Nations General Assembly. The General Assembly also welcomed UNEP efforts, and encouraged their further strengthening, to shift emphasis from the delivery of outputs to the achievement of results within its budget and programme of work. It also took note of the Governing Council's approval of the UNEP programme of work and the budget for the period 2010–2011. It underlined the need to advance further and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building to achieve its objectives and invited relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities. It also requested UNEP to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan. It also reiterated the need for UNEP to continue to conduct comprehensive, integrated and scientifically credible global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels. It encouraged UNEP to undertake a comprehensive integrated global assessment leading to the preparation of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series, indicating that the report should inform the strategic direction of UNEP. The General Assembly emphasized the need further to enhance coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between UNEP and regional and subregional organizations. It also welcomed the continued active participation of UNEP in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations "Delivering as one" exercise at the country level.

B. Resolution 64/236: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

8. In resolution 64/236 the General Assembly decided to organize in 2012 the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level, including heads of State and Government or other representatives. The objective of the conference, which will be hosted by the Government of Brazil, is to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assessing progress to date and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges. The conference will focus, among other issues, on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The General Assembly indicated that the conference should result in a focused political document and that it should ensure the balanced integration of economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. A preparatory committee will be established within the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development to carry out the preparations for the conference. The resolution called for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as other participants, in the work of the preparatory committee, and invited regional groups to nominate their candidates for the ten-member bureau of the preparatory committee no later than 28 February 2010. The first session of the preparatory committee will be held over three days, immediately after the conclusion of the eighteenth session and the first meeting of the nineteenth session of the Commission, in May 2010. Regional implementation meetings in 2011 for the Commission on Sustainable Development will be converted into regional preparatory meetings for the conference. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its eighteenth session in May 2010, to submit a thematic report on each of the five issues contained in the thematic cluster to be considered at the session, namely, transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking into account their interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation that were identified by the Commission at its eleventh session.

C. Resolution 64/184: Organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly

9. In resolution 64/184, the General Assembly decided to hold from 20 to 22 September 2010 in New York a high-level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. It also decided that the meeting would focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium

Development Goals by 2015, taking into account progress made with regard to internationally agreed development goals, through a comprehensive review of successes, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles, gaps, challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report in that regard in March 2010 and decided that the Secretary-General's report, together with the annual Millennium Development Goals Report and the report by the MDG Gap Task Force, would serve as inputs for consultations that would lead up to the high-level plenary meeting. The General Assembly encouraged all Member States to be represented at the meeting at the level of heads of State or Government, and invited United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society and the private sector to participate in the meeting, including in the round tables and in the preparatory process leading up to the meeting. It also requested the President of the General Assembly to continue to hold open, inclusive, timely and transparent consultations with all Member States with a view to reaching the broadest possible agreement on all major issues relating to the meeting, including the adoption of a concise and action-oriented outcome to be agreed upon by Member States.

D. Resolution 64/194: Modalities for the fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

10. In resolution 64/194 the General Assembly decided that the overall theme of the fourth High-level Dialogue would be "The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: status of implementation and tasks ahead." It also decided that the High-level Dialogue would consist of a series of plenary and informal meetings, three interactive multi-stakeholder round tables and an interactive dialogue, and that the interactive dialogue would have as its theme "the link between financing for development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: the road to the 2010 high-level event".

E. Resolution 64/199: Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

11. In resolution 64/199 the General Assembly reaffirmed its decision to convene a two-day high-level review in September 2010, as part of its sixty-fifth session, for the purpose of assessing progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. It also reaffirmed that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct a thorough assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and to agree on what needed to be done further to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. It decided to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in their respective regions, and an interregional meeting for all small island developing States, at which the participants would undertake the review of the Mauritius Strategy at the national and regional levels. It also decided that a preparatory committee meeting for the high-level review would be convened during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It invited heads of United Nations funds and programmes, United Nations specialized agencies and regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations and entities with observer status at sessions of the General Assembly to participate in the review.

F. Resolution 64/203: Convention on Biological Diversity

12. In resolution 64/203 the General Assembly decided to convene a one-day high-level meeting, as close in time as possible to the opening of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. It encouraged all Member States to be represented at the highest possible level, including by heads of State or Government, and invited heads of United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, along with heads of intergovernmental organizations, entities with observer status at sessions of the General Assembly and biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to participate in the meeting. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting in consultation with Member States. It encouraged all Member States, relevant regional and international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders to support the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including through voluntary contributions, and to take advantage of the Year to

increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development. It also encouraged all relevant organs of the United Nations, including functional commissions and regional commissions, and all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It urged all Member States to fulfil their commitments to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity significantly by 2010, emphasizing that that would require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility. It underscored the need to strengthen the science-policy interface in respect of biodiversity, taking note of the discussions on an intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the holding of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, which took place in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009.

G. Resolution 64/212: Science and technology for development

13. In resolution 64/212 the General Assembly encouraged continued efforts to implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme. It took note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech. The General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment, among other things, to strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change; and to promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including through appropriate technology.

II. Resolutions relevant to the UNEP ecosystem management subprogramme

A. Resolution 64/201: United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)

14. In resolution 64/201 the General Assembly expressed deep concern about the deteriorating situation with regard to desertification in all regions, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in respect of the eradication of poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability. It expressed commitment to raising awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at all levels consistent with the 10-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. It designated the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification as focal point for the Decade, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the United Nations Department of Public Information. It invited Parties to the Convention, observers and other relevant stakeholders to organize activities to observe the Decade with the aim of raising awareness of the causes of and solutions to land degradation and desertification.

B. Resolution 64/202: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

15. In resolution 64/202 the General Assembly requested all States Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification to promote awareness among local populations, particularly women, youth and civil society organizations, of, and to include them in, the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework, and encouraged affected parties and donors to take into account the issue of participation of civil society in convention processes when setting priorities in national development strategies, in conformity with, among other things, the comprehensive communication strategy adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session. The General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue the administrative renewal and reform of the

secretariat and to realign its functions in an effort to implement fully the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and bring those functions into line with the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

C. Resolution 64/205: Sustainable mountain development

16. In resolution 64/205 the General Assembly noted that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and watershed degradation, the frequency and scale of natural disasters, increasing outmigration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining and agriculture and the consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss were among the key challenges in the effort to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty in fragile mountain ecosystems and mountain regions consistent with the Millennium Development Goals. The General Assembly underlined the importance of sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation and the restoration of lost and degraded mountain forest ecosystems to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators. It also underlined the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions and the need to strengthen the role of women in decision-making processes that affected their communities, cultures and environments. It noted with appreciation the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders. The General Assembly encouraged all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to enhance their constructive efforts further to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the efforts of the inter-agency group on mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNEP, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations.

D. Resolution 64/71: Oceans and the law of the sea

17. In resolution 64/71, which it adopted by vote with 120 Member States in favour, 1 against and 3 abstaining, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole proposing a framework for the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene an informal meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole from 30 August to 3 September 2010, at which the Ad Hoc Working Group would further consider and make recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the modalities for the implementation of the regular process, including its key features, institutional arrangements and financing, and would specify the objective and scope of its first cycle, key questions to be answered and primary target audiences, ensuring that assessments were relevant for decision makers, along with recommendations on terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund and the scholarship fund. The General Assembly requested the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to support the regular process using existing resources or resources from the voluntary trust fund, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant United Nations specialized agencies and programmes. It also noted the decision adopted by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session calling for a process and timetable for the negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury to reduce the risks to human health and the environment posed by mercury.

E. Resolution 64/198: Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015

18. In resolution 64/198 the General Assembly welcomed the activities related to the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, undertaken by Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system, among others, through inter-agency work, as well as contributions from major groups, and emphasized the importance of country-level implementation of the Decade. It invited the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level interactive dialogue at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in New York on 22 March 2010, World Water Day, on the implementation of the Decade. It

also invited relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system to engage actively in the preparations for the high-level conference.

F. Resolution 64/196: Harmony with nature

19. In resolution 64/196 the General Assembly invited Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and international, regional and subregional organizations to consider the issue of promoting life in harmony with nature and to transmit to the Secretary-General their views, experiences and proposals on the issue. It also invited all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and international, regional and subregional organizations to make use of International Mother Earth Day, observed on 22 April, to promote activities and exchange opinions and views on conditions, experiences and principles relevant to a life in harmony with nature.

G. Resolution 64/72: Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

20. In resolution 64/72 the General Assembly highlighted, among other provisions in the resolution's 148 operative paragraphs, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management and the need to enhance understanding of ecosystem approaches to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources. The General Assembly urged all States to implement the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to accelerate activity to safeguard the marine ecosystem, including fish stocks, against pollution and physical degradation.

H. Resolution 64/159: Right to food

21. In resolution 64/159 the General Assembly recognized that the complex character of the global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food was threatened on a massive scale, was a combination of several major factors, such as the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States. The General Assembly also recognized the importance of protecting and preserving agricultural biodiversity and guaranteeing food security and the right to food for all. It recognized further that the 80 per cent of hungry people that lived in rural areas and the 50 per cent that were small-scale farm-holders were especially vulnerable to food insecurity given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources was an increasing challenge for poor food producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies were important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small-scale farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises was a key element of providing food security and protecting the right to food. It stressed the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that were specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands.

I. Resolution 64/197: Agricultural technology for development

22. By resolution 64/197, adopted by vote with 146 Member States in favour, 1 against and 32 abstaining, the General Assembly requested United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways sustainably to expand areas for agriculture and increase opportunities for agricultural development through technologies that allowed soil recovery, improved soil fertility and increased agricultural production in pressing environmental circumstances.

J. Resolution 64/224: Agricultural development and food security

23. In resolution 64/224 the General Assembly underscored the importance of the conservation of access to such resources and of the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use in accordance with national law and international agreements. It also reaffirmed the need to mobilize genetic resources needed to increase productivity, including through the review, approval and adoption of safe, effective and environmentally sustainable biotechnology and other new technologies.

K. Resolution 64/192: Commodities

24. In resolution 64/192 the General Assembly expressed concern over large-scale land acquisitions in developing countries that posed a risk to development efforts, stressed the importance of promoting responsible international investment in agriculture and invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, to continue its research on and analysis of the issue. It also called upon the international community to take urgent measures with regard to food security, including the immediate and adequate provision of food grain in developing countries suffering from shortages, in particular least developed countries, coupled with support for the efforts of those countries to achieve relatively long-term food security and sustainable agricultural development. It also noted that food aid should be provided in a manner that did not disrupt domestic markets and food production.

III. Resolutions relevant to the UNEP climate change subprogramme**A. Resolution 64/73: Protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind**

25. In resolution 64/73 the General Assembly stressed the seriousness of climate change and called upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the urgent implementation of its provisions. It reaffirmed that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhanced the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out through promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner. It recognized the urgency of providing financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to assist those developing countries adversely affected by climate change. The General Assembly also invited the international community to fulfil the commitments made during the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and to secure a successful fifth replenishment of the fund, without prejudice to discussions under way on financial mechanisms under the Convention. It requested the Secretary-General to provide for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011.

B. Resolution 64/206: Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

26. In resolution 64/206 the General Assembly emphasized that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal energy, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It recognized the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and the response to climate change, and encouraged the development of viable market-oriented strategies and public policies on research, development and market deployment that would lower the cost and increase the competitiveness of new and renewable energy sources as quickly as possible. It also encouraged the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they could play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

C. Resolution 64/208: Development cooperation with middle-income countries

27. In resolution 64/208 the General Assembly recognized that climate change was one of the challenges to the sustainable development of middle-income countries. It also acknowledged that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

D. Resolution 64/207: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

28. In resolution 64/207 the General Assembly encouraged Governments to promote sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of local authorities in ensuring access to basic services for all and improving the living conditions of vulnerable urban populations, including slum-dwellers and the urban poor, and, as a major contribution to mitigating the causes of climate change, adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing risks and vulnerabilities in a rapidly urbanizing world, including human settlements in fragile ecosystems. The General Assembly invited the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard. It also encouraged UN-Habitat to continue exploring the possibility of convening a high-level special event of the General Assembly on sustainable urbanization to promote understanding of the challenges of rapid urbanization, including, among others, climate change, housing finance, urban planning and sustainable land management.

E. Resolution 64/130: Policies and programmes involving youth

29. In resolution 64/130 the General Assembly emphasized that the deterioration of the natural environment, including the impact of climate change and loss of biodiversity, was one of the principal concerns of young people worldwide and had direct implications for the well-being and empowerment of youth both currently and in the future. It therefore urged Member States to promote environmental awareness and protection among youth, by, among other things, supporting programmes for non-formal education implemented by youth-led organizations, in accordance with the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development; strengthening the participation of youth as important actors in the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment at the local, national and international levels, as envisioned in Agenda 21; and ensuring the involvement of youth in the renewable and sustainable energy sectors through access to adequate education and training, the promotion of youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities and cooperation initiatives in those sectors.

F. Resolution 63/303: Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

30. In resolution 63/303 the General Assembly endorsed at its sixty-third session the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. In that document world leaders said the global financial and economic crisis must not delay the necessary global response to climate change and environmental degradation and that it should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The leaders acknowledged that the response to the crisis presented an opportunity to promote green economy initiatives and in that regard encouraged the use of national stimulus packages to contribute to sustainable development, sustainable long-term growth, full and productive employment, decent work for all and poverty eradication. They said too that global green initiatives and proposals should be inclusive and address sustainable development and environmental challenges and opportunities, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, financing and technology transfer to developing countries and sustainable forest management. They also encouraged private-sector participation in such initiatives at the national level in accordance with national development strategies and priorities.

G. Resolution 63/281: Climate change and its possible security implications

31. In resolution 63/281 the General Assembly expressed deep concern that the adverse impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, could have possible security implications. It accordingly invited the relevant organs of the United Nations to intensify their efforts in respect of climate change, including its possible security implications.

IV. Resolutions relevant to the UNEP disasters and conflict subprogramme

A. Resolution 64/127: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

32. In resolution 64/127 the General Assembly expressed deep concern about the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation to the protection activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the assistance that it provided to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in least developed countries. It urged the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations. It urged all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, in particular those that had received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers. It called upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes and the economic, environmental and social impacts of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition.

B. Resolution 64/129: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

33. In resolution 64/129 the General Assembly affirmed that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, were often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement. It recognized that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration into new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness could increase child-protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledged that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, might generate different protection needs. It called upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum and by internally displaced persons where appropriate.

C. Resolution 64/200: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

34. In resolution 64/200 the General Assembly emphasized the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction. It stressed the importance of implementing and adapting long-term programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters. It stressed the need to address the reduction of the risk of and vulnerability to all natural hazards, including geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, in a comprehensive manner. It recognized the importance of integrating a gender perspective and empowering and engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management and risk reduction strategies and programmes and encouraged the secretariat of the Strategy to continue to increase the promotion of gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women. The General Assembly decided to designate 13 October as the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

D. Resolution 64/76: Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

35. In resolution 64/76 the General Assembly called upon Member States and the international community to increase resources for disaster risk reduction measures, including preparedness for effective response and contingency planning. It urged Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide coordinated emergency responses to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such measures were supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security. It encouraged the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their

capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards. It also encouraged States to create an enabling environment for capacity-building for local authorities and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations to ensure better preparedness to provide timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance. It also encouraged the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support for such efforts, including through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and support for programmes aimed at enhancing coordination the capacities of affected States.

E. Resolution 64/195: Oil slick on Lebanese shores

36. In resolution 64/195, which was adopted by vote with 154 Member States in favour, 8 against and 3 abstaining, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon, Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations of the shores polluted as a result of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of El-Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon. It encouraged the Member States and above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support for the Government of Lebanon with the aim of completing the clean-up and rehabilitation operations and preserving the ecosystems of Lebanon and the Eastern Mediterranean Basin. It reaffirmed its decision to establish an Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration trust fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected with their integrated environmentally sound management of the environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at El-Jiyeh. It requested the Secretary-General to continue working towards the hosting and operationalization of the trust fund and to finalize promptly the implementation of the decision before the end of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

F. Resolution 64/185: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

37. In resolution 64/185, which was adopted by vote with 165 Member States in favour, 8 against and 7 abstaining, the General Assembly called upon Israel to cease all actions harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threatened the natural resources in those areas and posed an environmental, sanitation and health threat to their civilian populations.

G. Resolution 64/50: Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

38. In resolution 64/50 the General Assembly recognized that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons was a serious problem that the international community should address urgently. It underlined the fact that all aspects of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons required concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons. It also underlined that the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world had a wide range of humanitarian, social and economic consequences and posed a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels. It encouraged all initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and called upon all Member States to contribute to the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels.

H. Resolution 64/51: Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

39. In resolution 64/51 the General Assembly encouraged all States to put in place appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion.

I. Resolution 64/33: Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

40. In resolution 64/33 the General Assembly called upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development.

J. Resolution 64/43: Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

41. In resolution 64/43 the General Assembly expressed conviction that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, could be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries.

K. Resolution 64/99: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

42. In resolution 64/99, which was adopted by vote with 123 Member States in favour and 53 abstaining, the General Assembly noted the extremely fragile economies of small island non-self-governing territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise. It also requested the specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to provide information on, among other things, environmental problems facing such territories, the impact on such territories of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, other environmental problems, including beach and coastal erosion and droughts, and the illegal exploitation of their marine resources.

V. Resolutions relevant to the UNEP harmful substances and hazardous wastes subprogramme

A. Resolution 64/85: Effects of atomic radiation

43. In resolution 64/85 the General Assembly expressed its concern about the potentially harmful effects of radiation on present and future generations. It noted with appreciation the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, endorsed its programme of work of scientific review and assessment and encouraged it to submit its reports, at its earliest convenience, on the levels of radiation produced by energy production and its effects on human health and the environment and on the attribution of health effects to radiation exposure. It invited the Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports. It also invited Member States, the United Nations system and concerned non-governmental organizations to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which, it said, would greatly help in the preparation of future Committee reports. The General Assembly requested UNEP to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Committee and the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public. It urged UNEP to review and strengthen the funding of the Committee and encouraged Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the UNEP Executive Director. It also directed the Committee to continue its reflection on how its current, as well as its potentially revised, membership could best support its work, including by developing, with the participation of observer countries, detailed, objective and transparent criteria and indicators to be applied equitably to present and future members alike, and to report its conclusions by the end of June 2010. The General Assembly also resolved to take a decision on full membership for the Committee's observers – Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine – once a decision on resource allocation had been made, but no later than the end of its current session.

B. Resolution 64/35: International Day against Nuclear Tests

44. In resolution 64/35 the General Assembly expressed conviction that every effort should be made to end nuclear tests in order to avert devastating and harmful effects on the lives and health of people and the environment. It declared 29 August to be the International Day against Nuclear Tests, devoted to enhancing public awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

C. Resolution 64/45: Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

45. In resolution 64/45 the General Assembly expressed grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States. It called upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States. It requested the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention. It took note of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa.

D. Resolution 64/86: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

46. In resolution 64/86 the General Assembly underlined its conviction that the use of space science and technology and their applications in such areas as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection and other Earth observation applications contributed to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that addressed various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication. It urged entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration and encouraged the United Nations University and other scientific institutions to explore the possibilities of providing training and policy research at the crossroads of international law, climate change and outer space.

VI. Resolutions relevant to the UNEP resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme**A. Resolution 64/193: Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)**

47. In resolution 64/193 the General Assembly emphasized that the financial and economic crisis had demonstrated the need for more effective government involvement to ensure an appropriate balance between the market and public interest, recognizing the need to regulate financial markets better. It recognized that a dynamic, inclusive well-functioning and socially responsible private sector was a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty. It emphasized the need to pursue appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at the national level and in a manner consistent with national laws to encourage public and private initiatives, including at the local level, and to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while improving income growth and distribution, raising productivity, empowering women and protecting labour rights and the environment and reiterated the importance of ensuring that the benefits of growth reached all people by empowering individuals and communities. It stressed the essential role that official development assistance played in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. It reiterated that official development assistance could play a catalytic role in assisting developing countries in removing constraints to sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, for example through enhancing social, institutional and physical infrastructure, promoting foreign direct investment, trade and technological innovations, improving health and education, fostering gender equality, preserving the environment and eradicating poverty.

B. Resolution 64/223: Towards global partnerships

48. In resolution 64/223 the General Assembly welcomed efforts and encouraged further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility. Such conduct would involve bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their profit-making activities, in conformity with national laws and regulations. It recalled that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development. It encouraged public-private partnerships in the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change. It called upon United Nations entities that engaged the private sector as partners in their work to develop the policy frameworks and institutional capacities needed for engagement in a mutually beneficial way and encouraged the further development of United Nations private sector focal points for the purposes of learning and sharing best practices and information.

C. Resolution 64/210: Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

49. In resolution 64/210 the General Assembly noted with concern the unprecedented rise in unemployment as a consequence of the current global financial and economic crisis and recognized that decent work remained one of the best routes out of poverty. It invited donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to consider assisting developing countries to implement the resolution entitled “Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact”, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, in consultation and cooperation with the International Labour Organization. The global jobs pact promotes a shift to low-carbon economy and green jobs.

D. Resolution 64/190: International financial system and development

50. In resolution 64/190 the General Assembly expressed serious concern at the impact that the current world economic and financial crisis was having on all countries, particularly developing countries, and stressed the need for actions that were commensurate with the scale, depth and urgency of the crisis, adequately financed, promptly implemented and appropriately coordinated internationally, and in this regard, notes the significant work under way at the national, regional and international levels to mitigate the impact of the crisis.

E. Resolution 64/191: External debt sustainability and development

51. In resolution 64/191 the General Assembly invited the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in their assessment of debt sustainability, to take into account fundamental changes caused by, among other things, natural disasters, conflicts and changes in global growth prospects or in the terms of trade, especially for commodity-dependent developing countries, along with changes caused by developments in financial markets, and to continue to provide information on that issue using existing cooperation forums, including those involving Member States. It stressed that debt relief could play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, economic development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, it urged countries to direct resources freed up through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards those objectives.

F. Resolution 64/157: Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

52. In resolution 64/157, decided by vote with 127 Member States in favour, 54 against and 5 abstaining, the General Assembly expressed its concern that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic and other factors such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing

States, represented a global scenario that was threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and was widening the gap between developed and developing countries. It also affirmed the right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to international cooperation that responded effectively to the needs of nations seeking to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promoted the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation.

G. Resolution 64/160: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

53. By resolution 64/160, adopted by vote with 129 Member States in favour, 54 against and 3 abstaining, the General Assembly called upon Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization with the aim of systematically reducing poverty and achieving international development targets.

H. Resolution 64/172: Right to development

54. By resolution 64/172, adopted by vote with 133 Member States in favour, 23 against and 30 abstaining, the General Assembly expressed its deep concern at the negative impact on the realization of the right to development of the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, particularly of developing countries, caused by the current international energy, food and financial crises and global climate change. It urged developed countries that had not yet done so to make concrete efforts to meet the targets of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of gross domestic product to least developed countries. It encouraged developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance was used effectively to help meet development goals and targets. It recognized the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development. It stressed, in that regard, the need for good governance and broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as the need to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions. It also stressed the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting.

I. Resolution 64/188: International trade and development

55. In resolution 64/188 the General Assembly reiterated its call to accelerate work on the trade-related aspects of the World Intellectual Property Organization development agenda and the development-related mandate concerning the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially the examination of the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore and the issues related to the full implementation of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, affecting developing countries, including the least developed countries, especially those issues arising from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases. The General Assembly reaffirmed that developing countries should play an increasing role in the formulation of, among other things, safety, environmental and health standards and called for the full and fair representation of developing countries in relevant international standard-setting organizations. It also called for additional financial resources and technical capacity-building to ensure the adequate participation of developing countries. It reiterated the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and called upon the international community to work to strengthen the Conference, especially through increased core resources of the Conference, to enable it to enhance its contribution in its three major areas of activity: consensus building, research and policy analysis and technical assistance.

VII. Resolutions relevant to UNEP regional activities

A. Resolution 64/68: Strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

56. In resolution 64/68 the General Assembly recognized that the elimination of economic and social disparities in development and other obstacles, along with respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, would contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through existing forums.

B. Resolution 64/102: Question of New Caledonia

57. In resolution 64/102 the General Assembly noted the importance of the positive measures being pursued in the Territory of New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development, including measures in the area of environmental protection. It also noted concerns expressed by representatives of indigenous people regarding incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment; the continuing strengthening of ties between the Territory and both the European Union and the European Development Fund in such areas as economic and trade cooperation, the environment, climate change and financial services; and the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of the Territory, notably the Zonéco operation, designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of the Territory.

C. Resolution 64/105: Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

58. In resolution 64/105 the General Assembly, conscious of the particular vulnerability of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands to natural disasters and environmental degradation, requested those Territories and their administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against degradation and repeated a previous request to specialized agencies that they should continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories.

VIII. Other resolutions of particular relevance to UNEP

A. Resolution 64/222: Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

59. In resolution 64/222 the General Assembly endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. Heads of delegations and high-level representatives of Governments recognized in the document that interrelated global crises, in particular the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis, poverty and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as other challenges including communicable and non-communicable diseases, were reversing the gains achieved in developing countries and therefore required action at all levels. They accordingly invited developed countries and multilateral institutions to enhance their support for South-South cooperation to contribute to addressing those challenges.

B. Resolution 64/216: Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

60. In resolution 64/216 the General Assembly underlined the fact that, in the face of the current multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, were needed more than ever. The General Assembly recognized in this context that there was an urgent need to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and called upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to

implement the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

C. Resolution 64/215: Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

61. In resolution 64/215 the General Assembly stressed that poverty was a multifaceted problem requiring a multifaceted and integrated approach to addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels. It emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels.

D. Resolution 64/217: Women in development

62. In resolution 64/217 the General Assembly expressed deep concern over the disproportionate negative impact on women of the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change. It called on Member States to integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national environmental policies, to strengthen mechanisms and to provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls. It urged Member States to adopt and review legislation and policies to ensure women's equal access to and control over land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, land reform programmes and land markets, and to take measures to implement such laws and policies. It recognized the need to empower women economically and politically, particularly poor women, and encouraged Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of women and girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship. It also recognized the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women and their traditional knowledge, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. It called upon the organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational mandates, to improve further their institutional accountability mechanisms and to include intergovernmentally agreed gender equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks.

E. Resolution 64/141: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

63. In resolution 64/141 the General Assembly called on the United Nations system, including its main organs, its main committees and subsidiary bodies, including through new functions such as the annual ministerial review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Development Cooperation Forum, and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to mainstream a gender perspective fully into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as at all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, and to give attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women in preparations for such events. In that regard, the General Assembly looked forward to efficient and effective support for such efforts by the consolidated gender entity upon its establishment.

F. Resolution 64/220: Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

64. In resolution 64/220 the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development, through which it established key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system.

G. Resolution 64/218: Human resources development

65. In resolution 64/218 the General Assembly encouraged Member States to continue to strengthen social protection systems and to adopt policies to strengthen existing safety nets, protect vulnerable groups and boost domestic consumption and production, especially to cushion the effect of the current economic crisis and to prevent people from falling into poverty. It acknowledged in that regard that many developing countries lacked the necessary financial resources and capacity to implement such countercyclical measures and recognized a need for continued mobilization of additional domestic and international resources.

H. Resolution 64/214: Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

66. In resolution 64/214 the General Assembly noted with concern that despite progress landlocked developing countries continued to be marginalized in international trade, which prevented them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development, and faced challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems and achieve their development goals, including internationally agreed development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals.

I. Resolution 64/213: Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

67. In resolution 64/213 the General Assembly decided to convene in Turkey the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which would take place for five days in the first half of 2011. It also decided that the intergovernmental preparatory committee envisaged in its resolution 63/227 would meet in New York from 10 to 14 January 2011 and from 18 to 25 April 2011, in each case over five working days.

J. Resolution 64/174: Human rights and cultural diversity

68. In resolution 64/174, adopted by vote with 126 Member States in favour, 52 against and 5 abstaining, the General Assembly expressed its determination to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity. It requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on human rights and cultural diversity, taking into account the views of Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations and the considerations stated in the resolution regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

K. Resolution 64/145: Girl child

69. In resolution 64/145 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, took into account, in accordance with national priorities, the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation, including those carried out through United Nations development assistance frameworks.

L. Resolution 64/146: Rights of the child

70. In resolution 64/146 the General Assembly recognized the threat to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, posed by the global financial and economic crisis, which was connected to multiple, interrelated global crises and

challenges such as the food crisis and continuing food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change. It called upon States to address, in their response to the crisis, any impact on the full enjoyment of the rights of children and to encourage and enable children affected by natural and human-made disasters and complex emergencies, in particular adolescents, to participate, in a manner consistent with their capacities and best interests, in analysing their situations and future prospects in crisis, post-crisis and transition processes. It also recognized that appropriate care was necessary to protect children from exposure to situations that were likely to be traumatic or harmful.

M. Resolution 64/186: Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

71. In resolution 64/186 the General Assembly recognized that information and communication technologies had the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and could foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that would help to expedite the integration of all countries, particularly developing countries, into the global economy.

N. Resolution 64/187: Information and communication technologies for development

72. In resolution 64/187 the General Assembly recognized the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology and in that regard encouraged the United Nations development system to continue its efforts to promote the use of information and communication technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

IX. Resolutions of relevance to UNEP programme and administrative matters

A. Resolution 64/228: Capital Master Plan

73. In resolution 64/228 the General Assembly reiterated its serious concern at the hazards, risks and deficiencies of the United Nations Headquarters building in its current condition, which endangered the safety, health and well-being of staff, delegations, visitors and tourists. Among many other things, it requested the Secretary-General to provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis of any additional sustainability options that might be incorporated into the construction project.

B. Resolutions 64/243–64/247 on the programme budget for the 2010–2011 biennium

74. The General Assembly adopted a series of five resolutions dealing with the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011, resolutions 64/243–64/247.

1. Resolution 64/243: Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011

75. Resolution 64/243 contains sections dealing with policy and cross-cutting issues, human resources, extrabudgetary resources, consultants, training, conference servicing, non-post costs, re-costing and questions and comments on specific sections and subprogrammes of the proposed 2010–2011 programme budget (excluding subprogramme 14 – Environment). In the resolution, the General Assembly endorsed most of the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium. In doing so, it agreed to the establishment of a P-4 Scientific Officer post for the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. In the section of the resolution on overall policy-making, direction and coordination, the General Assembly decided to establish a dedicated post of Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

2. Resolution 64/244: Programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011

76. By resolution 64/244 the General Assembly approved a total budget of approximately \$5.16 billion for the 2010–2011 biennium, with \$14,406,200 for subprogramme 14 – Environment.

3. Resolution 64/237: Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

77. In resolution 64/237 the General Assembly reiterated its call upon the private sector, at both the international and national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption. It noted in that context the role that the Global Compact could play in fighting corruption and promoting transparency and emphasized the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability.
