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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Emerging policy issues: environment and development

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

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note highlights selected resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session that are of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme, including those grouped in conformity with the six subprogrammes of the work programme for the current biennium, and also those of regional and administrative significance.

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.XII/1.

Introduction

1. At the first part of its sixty-sixth session, from 13 September to 24 December 2011, the General Assembly adopted 251 resolutions, most recommended by the Assembly's six Main Committees. They covered diverse areas of focus, including disarmament and international security; social, humanitarian and cultural matters; sustainable development; cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations; and administrative and budgetary matters. Of immediate significance to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) programme of work were the more than 40 resolutions adopted by the Assembly's Second Committee which considered economic and financial issues, including sustainable development.

2. The Second Committee recommended for General Assembly adoption, among others, resolution 66/197 on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which provided for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will be held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It also adopted resolution 66/203 on the report of the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session, and resolution 66/115 on global health and foreign policy, which highlighted environment-health interlinkages.

3. A significant number of the General Assembly resolutions were of direct relevance to the programme of work of UNEP, particularly to its six subprogrammes: environmental governance, ecosystem management, climate change, disasters and conflict, harmful substances and hazardous waste, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

4. It is important to note that many of the sustainable development resolutions adopted at the Assembly's sixty-sixth session were mainly procedural in nature as many of the issues will be considered at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

5. The following chapters summarize relevant resolutions in the context of the six UNEP subprogrammes, highlighting not only the diversity and breadth of the issues considered by the General Assembly, but also their significance to the programme as a whole. The final text of all the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session will be available online in 2012 from <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/r66.shtml>.

I. Resolutions relevant to environmental governance subprogramme

A. Resolution 66/115: Global health and foreign policy

6. In resolution 66/115, the General Assembly called for more attention to health-related issues in the global environmental agenda as well as for more attention to environmental issues in the health agenda, acknowledging the direct linkages between health and the environment. It encouraged the development of multisectoral policies to limit not only the detrimental impact of human intervention and environmental degradation but also the current and projected consequences of climate change for health.

7. The Assembly stressed the need to strengthen national monitoring mechanisms for measuring the impacts of the environment on health, identifying emerging risks and evaluating the progress made, and to strengthen national risk assessment and early warning mechanisms for identifying, assessing and addressing health vulnerabilities posed by environmental degradation. It encouraged Member States to take into consideration the important role of health for the achievement of sustainable development, including in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012.

B. Resolution 66/197: 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 66/197, the General Assembly confirmed 20–22 June 2012 as the new dates of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Conference would be preceded by the third session of the Preparatory Committee from 13 to 15 June, also in Rio de Janeiro. It strongly encouraged Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

9. The Assembly decided that the Conference would be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four high-level round-table sessions, which would be held

concurrently with the plenary meetings. The four round-table sessions would be interactive, involve multi-stakeholders and have a common theme: “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference”. It invited Member States, observers and all relevant stakeholders, including the regional commissions, United Nations organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference.

C. Resolution 66/198: Follow-up to the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

10. In resolution 66/198, the General Assembly recalled the outcome document of the September 2010 High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It stressed the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. It decided to consider, at its sixty-seventh session, the reports of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which were originally submitted at its sixty-sixth session.

D. Resolution 66/203: Report of the UNEP Governing Council on its twenty-sixth session

11. In resolution 66/203, the General Assembly welcomed the Governing Council's approval of the programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013. The Assembly reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP and the importance of its headquarters location in Nairobi. It took note of Governing Council decision 26/1 of 24 February 2011 on international environmental governance, and of the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome. The Assembly also recognized that 2012 marked the fortieth anniversary of UNEP, and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of UNEP.

E. Resolution 66/207: 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)

12. In resolution 66/207, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”. It decided to consider before the end of 2012, the scope, modalities, format and organization of the Habitat III conference, in a most efficient and effective manner. The Assembly also invited the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system.

13. The Assembly also stressed the importance of timely action by UN-Habitat in response to natural and human-made disasters, in particular through its work in addressing post-disaster and post-conflict housing and infrastructure needs through its normative and operational work as part of the continuum from emergency relief to recovery and to urban development through effective urban planning.

II. Resolutions relevant to ecosystem management subprogramme

A. Resolution 66/231: Oceans and the law of the sea

14. In resolution 66/231, which was adopted by a vote of 134 in favour to 1 against, with 6 abstentions, the General Assembly welcomed the activities of UNEP relating to marine debris carried out in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and organizations. It recognized that most of the pollution load of the oceans emanated from land-based activities and affected the most productive areas of the marine environment, and called upon States as a matter of priority to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. It welcomed the continued work of States, UNEP and regional organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encouraged increased emphasis on the

link between freshwater, the coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

15. The Assembly stressed the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science, particularly considering their role in monitoring and forecasting climate change and variability and in the establishment and operation of tsunami-warning systems.

16. The Assembly adopted the Criteria for the Appointment of Experts and the Guidelines for Workshops to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects. It requested the Secretary-General to convene the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole from 23 to 27 April 2012 with a view to enabling the first cycle of the first global integrated assessment to proceed, and to provide recommendations to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

17. The Assembly invited the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNEP, the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other competent United Nations specialized agencies, as appropriate, to continue to provide technical and scientific support to the Regular Process.

18. The Assembly welcomed the work done by the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including through UN-Oceans. It invited the Joint Inspection Unit to review UN-Oceans and to submit a report to the Assembly for its consideration, and requested UN-Oceans to submit to the Assembly draft terms of reference for its work, to be considered at its sixty-seventh session, with a view to reviewing its mandate and enhancing transparency and reporting of its activities to Member States.

B. Resolution 66/68: 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

19. In resolution 66/68, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of addressing the sustainable development of fisheries in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and recognized the significant contribution of fisheries to the three pillars of sustainable development. It urged States, either directly or through appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations or arrangements, to intensify efforts to assess and address, as appropriate, the impacts of global climate change on the sustainability of fish stocks and the habitats that support them, in particular the most affected ones.

20. The 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. It acknowledged the serious environmental impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, and encouraged States to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations of the 2009 report by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

C. Resolution 66/104: The law of transboundary aquifers

21. In resolution 66/104, the General Assembly recommended that the draft articles annexed to its resolution 63/124 be taken into account by Member States when negotiating future bilateral or regional agreements or arrangements for the management of their transboundary aquifers. Further, the Assembly encouraged the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to offer further scientific and technical assistance to the States concerned. It also called for further examination of the final form that the draft articles should take.

D. Resolution 66/158: The right to food

22. In resolution 66/158, the General Assembly among other things, recognized that the complex character of the global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food was threatened, 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.

23. The Assembly also expressed its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pests and their increasing impact in recent years, which had resulted in massive loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food security. 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. It also stressed the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability.

E. Resolution 66/194: Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development

24. In resolution 66/194, the General Assembly urged States to identify relevant measures or tools for the protection of coral reefs within their national jurisdiction as an urgent sustainable development priority to address, inter alia, poverty eradication, food security, sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem conservation, encouraging States to implement and integrate them, as appropriate, into broader sustainable development strategies. The Assembly stressed the need to improve the understanding of the economic, social and environmental benefits of coral reefs and related ecosystems to develop and enhance measures to protect coral reefs, reinforce their resilience and strengthen the ability of coastal communities to adapt to environmental changes and coral reef degradation.

F. Resolution 66/195: Agricultural technology for development

25. In resolution 66/195, which was adopted by a vote of 141 in favour to 2 against, with 33 abstentions, the General Assembly underlined the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems and management practices, such as conservation agriculture and integrated pest management, in order to make agriculture more resilient and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals, including livestock, more tolerant to diseases, pests and environmental stresses, including drought and climate change. The Assembly requested relevant 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 to augment sustainable agriculture and management practices, such as conservation agriculture, and increase the use of agricultural technologies that have a positive impact on the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage and transportation, especially in pressing environmental circumstances.

G. Resolution 66/201: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

26. In resolution 66/201, the General Assembly expressed deep concern and solidarity over the situation in the Horn of Africa region, which was experiencing one of the worst droughts in 60 years, and underlined that this situation highlighted the need for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and its 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018), through short-, medium- and long-term measures.

H. Resolution 66/202: Convention on Biological Diversity

27. In resolution 66/202, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, to be held from 1 to 5 October 2012.

I. Resolution 66/204: Harmony with nature

28. In resolution 66/204, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to convene, during the Assembly's sixty-sixth session, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 20 April 2012, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to discuss the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting ecosystem functions and natural environmental cycles. It requested the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue and invited Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund. It invited the relevant entities of the United Nations system to work with other relevant actors, including non-governmental organizations, experts and the academic community, as appropriate, both to identify new ways and means to overcome the limitations of gross domestic product with regard to sustainable development and to better measure the environmental degradation resulting from human activity.

J. Resolution 66/205: Sustainable mountain development

29. In resolution 66/205, the General Assembly recognized that mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stressed the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures. The Assembly stressed the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and enhancing higher and continuing education on mountain issues in order to expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in mountain areas. It also stressed the importance of promoting educational and advocacy programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels, to enhance awareness of sustainable development issues in mountain regions and of the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas and to take full advantage of the opportunities provided annually by the marking of International Mountain Day on 11 December.

K. Resolution 66/220: Agriculture development and food security

30. In resolution 66/220, the General Assembly recognized that underdevelopment, desertification and land degradation, as well as extreme weather events had undermined the livelihoods of the poor and people in vulnerable situations in the Horn of Africa and other developing countries, and called for an integrated approach from the international community in the form of immediate and medium- and long-term actions to address food security and nutrition. The Assembly promoted a significant expansion of research on food and agriculture, and its funding, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions, and promoting technology transfer, sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources.

L. Resolutions 66/221 on International Year of Quinoa, 2013; and 66/222 on International Year of Family Farming, 2014

31. By resolutions 66/221 and 66/222, the General Assembly declared 2013 the International Year of Quinoa, and 2014 the International Year of Family Farming.

III. Resolutions relevant to climate change subprogramme**A. Resolution 66/200: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind**

32. In resolution 66/200, the General Assembly recognized the need to build on the existing political momentum with a view to further advancing climate change negotiations. It underlined the importance of achieving an ambitious, substantive, holistic and balanced outcome through the ongoing negotiations at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

B. Resolution 66/206: Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

33. In resolution 66/206, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development. It recognized the contributions of regional

initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It invited Member States, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders, to use the opportunity offered by the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All to raise global awareness on the importance of new and renewable sources of energy and low-emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the environment-friendly use of traditional energy resources, as well as the promotion of access to modern, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services. The Assembly also noted the initiative of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Energy for All.

IV. Resolutions relevant to disasters and conflicts subprogramme

A. Resolution 66/31: Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

34. In resolution 66/31, the General Assembly called upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as 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 selective contribution to attaining sustainable development.

B. Resolution 66/52: Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

35. In resolution 66/52, the General Assembly 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 the convention. It also appealed to all Member States that had not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management to do so as soon as possible.

C. Resolution 66/71: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

36. In resolution 66/71, the General Assembly welcomed the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the preparatory discussions for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and called on the Group on Earth Observations to do likewise by addressing issues related to the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development. The resolution also adopted the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which expressed its conviction that space science and technology and their applications could, among other things, contribute more effectively to efforts to conserve natural resources and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters. It also stressed the need to look more closely into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies could further contribute to meeting challenges, including that of global climate change.

D. Resolution 66/133: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

37. In resolution 66/133, the General Assembly expressed its concern about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the protection activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the assistance it provided to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries. The Assembly called upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and noted with appreciation those donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees who remain vulnerable members of society.

E. Resolution 66/135: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

38. In resolution 66/135, the General Assembly noted with great concern that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and

displaced persons in Africa remained precarious. The Assembly called upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict was one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa. Among other things, the Assembly 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, as well as internally displaced persons.

F. Resolution 66/165: Protection of and assistance of internally displaced persons

39. In resolution 66/165, the General Assembly recognized that natural disasters were a cause of internal displacement, and was concerned about factors, such as climate change, which were expected to exacerbate the impact of natural hazards, and climate-related events. The Assembly also recognized the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which might, among other factors, contribute to human displacement. It encouraged the Special Rapporteur on the subject, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent displacement or to provide assistance and protection to those who were forced to flee.

G. Resolution 66/192: Oil slick on Lebanese shores

40. In resolution 66/192, which was adopted by a vote of 165 in favour to 8 against, with 6 abstentions, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to give further consideration to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to explore the value of the experience of the United Nations Compensation Commission in terms of defining environmental damage in such a case, in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable.

H. Resolution 66/199: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

41. In resolution 66/199, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster, and called upon Member States, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and requested the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The Assembly welcomed the offer made by the Government of Japan to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.

I. Resolution 66/225: 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

42. In resolution 66/225, which was adopted by a vote of 167 in favour to 7 against, with 6 abstentions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources. The Assembly demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion, and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan. It 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 their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which posed an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations.

J. Resolution 66/227: International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

43. In resolution 66/227, the General Assembly acknowledged that climate change, among other factors, contributed to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of

extreme weather events, both of which amplified natural disaster risk. It encouraged Member States, as well as relevant regional, subregional and international organizations, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries. The Assembly encouraged the further use of space-based and ground-based remote sensing technologies, including as provided by UN-SPIDER, as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate. It invited Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery.

V. Resolutions relevant to harmful substances and hazardous wastes subprogramme

A. Resolution 66/70: Effects of atomic radiation

44. In resolution 66/70, the General Assembly commended the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it had been making since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation. The Assembly urged UNEP to continue to strengthen the funding of the Scientific Committee and encouraged Member States to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of UNEP to support the work of the Scientific Committee. It took note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the effects of atomic radiation in the Marshall Islands. It decided to increase the membership of the Scientific Committee from 21 to 27 States and invited Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine to become members. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the Committee's experience with increased membership and decided to next consider the membership issue at its seventy-second session.

VI. Resolutions relevant to resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme

A. Resolution 66/185: International trade and development

45. In resolution 66/185, the General Assembly 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. It called upon the international community to work towards the strengthening of the Conference to enable it to enhance its contribution in its three major pillars, namely, consensus-building, research and policy analysis, and technical assistance, and

B. Resolution 66/187: International financial system and development

46. In resolution 66/187, the General Assembly stressed the need to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy in order to ensure balanced, sustainable, inclusive and equitable global growth with full and productive employment and quality jobs. It recalled the resolve to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system and multilateral financial, trade and development institutions to support economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development worldwide, on the basis of a clear understanding of and respect for their mandates and governance structures.

C. Resolution 66/188: Addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets

47. In resolution 66/188, the General Assembly stressed the need to take active measures to reduce excessive food price volatility, while acknowledging that there was an incomplete understanding of its causes and that more research was needed, and in that regard underlined the need to promote greater transparency and market information at all levels. The Assembly requested its President at the sixty-sixth session to convene a high-level thematic debate, to be held in plenary meeting, with the participation of Member States, independent experts and other stakeholders, to promote an exchange of views on addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets, while taking into account relevant work done at the national, regional and international levels. It invited all relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as

well as other relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations, to participate actively in the high-level thematic debate and to continue their research and analysis on this matter.

D. Resolution 66/189: External debt sustainability and development

48. In resolution 66/189, the General Assembly 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, and in that regard, urged countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, particularly through debt cancellation and reduction, towards those objectives, according to their national priorities and strategies.

E. Resolution 66/190: Commodities

49. In resolution 66/190, the General Assembly expressed concern over the large-scale land acquisitions in developing countries by, among others, transnational corporations, that incurred risk to development efforts, stressed the importance of promoting responsible international investment in agriculture, urged the Committee on World Food Security to finalize the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, and invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, to continue its research and analysis on the issue. It underlined the important contribution of the commodities sector to rural development, in particular to providing rural employment and income, and to the efforts for achieving food security. The Assembly reaffirmed that every State had and should freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities.

F. Resolution 66/191: Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

50. In resolution 66/191, the General Assembly called upon developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment, inter alia, through the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services. It also called upon developing countries to continue their efforts to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights; and stressed the importance of enhancing efforts to mobilize investment from all sources in human resources and physical, environmental, institutional and social infrastructure. The Assembly reiterated that official development assistance could play a catalytic role in assisting developing countries in removing constraints on sustained, inclusive and equitable growth by, inter alia, 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.

VII. Resolutions relevant to UNEP regional activities

A. Resolution 66/84: 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

51. In resolution 66/84, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on, among other things: environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories; the impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories; and the illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories.

B. Resolution 66/87: Question of New Caledonia

52. In resolution 66/87, the General Assembly noted the measures pursued by the French authorities in the area of environmental protection within the Territory of New Caledonia, while also noting the concerns expressed by indigenous people regarding the environmental impact of mining activities.

C. Resolution 66/89: 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

53. In resolution 66/89, the General Assembly, noted the concerns expressed by the inhabitants of Guam regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory, the United States. The Assembly also noted the particular vulnerability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation and, in that connection, requested the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect, conserve and monitor the environment of each Territory. On Guam, the Committee expressed concern at the environmental impact of the United States military installations.

D. Resolution 66/193: International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

54. In resolution 66/193, the General Assembly welcomed and recognized the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, implementing measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy. It called upon Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region.

E. Resolution 66/196: Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

55. In resolution 66/196, the General Assembly recognized the need to promote the development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, and to strengthen the development of ecotourism, taking into account the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, while maintaining the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage. The Assembly called for the promotion of the development of sustainable tourism and capacity building to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities and small- and medium-sized enterprises, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity.

VIII. Other resolutions of particular relevance to UNEP

A. Resolution 66/121: Policies and programmes involving youth

56. In resolution 66/121, the General Assembly recognized that young people in all countries were a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, sustainable economic development and technological innovation. However, the Assembly expressed its concern that the attainment of social development objectives might be hindered by multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

B. Resolution 66/125: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

57. In resolution 66/125, the General Assembly expressed deep concern that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile food and energy prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, had negative implications for social development. The Assembly, among many other things, underlined the responsibility of the private sector regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their

activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development.

C. Resolution 66/155: The right to development

58. In resolution 66/155, the General Assembly, among other things, expressed its deep concern about the negative impact on the realization of that right due to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which had increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and had adversely affected development gains, particularly in developing countries.

D. Resolution 66/159: Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

59. In resolution 66/159, which was adopted by a vote of 130 in favour to 54 against, with 6 abstentions, the General Assembly reaffirmed that a democratic and equitable international order required, inter alia, the realization of, among others, the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources; the right of every human person and all peoples to development; the right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responded effectively to the needs for assistance of national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promoted the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation.

E. Resolution 66/161: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

60. In resolution 66/161, the General Assembly noted that globalization was not merely an economic process, but that it also had social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions, which had an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Assembly called Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved.

F. Resolution 66/181: Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

61. In resolution 66/181, the General Assembly drew attention to the emerging policy issues identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, namely, piracy, cybercrime, abuse and exploitation of children, trafficking in cultural property, illicit financial flows and illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and invited the Office to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of addressing those issues.

G. Resolution 66/182: United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders

62. In resolution 66/182, the General Assembly encouraged the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focused attention on the coordination of activities that promoted development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies.

H. Resolution 66/184: Information and communication technologies for development

63. In resolution 66/184, the General Assembly recognized that information and communications 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, especially developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, into the global economy. The Assembly encouraged the United Nations development system to continue its efforts to promote the use of information and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development

and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

I. Resolution 66/208: Culture and development

64. In resolution 66/208, the General Assembly invited all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to preserve and maintain local and indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which were valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and local and indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation. They were also invited to promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as a key element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continued to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assess, in consultation with relevant United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the feasibility of various measures, including a possible United Nations conference, to take stock of the contribution of culture to development and to formulate a consolidated approach to culture and development.

J. Resolution 66/210: Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

65. In resolution 66/210, the General Assembly recognized that the scaling up of successful policies and approaches in the implementation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals needed to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership for development. It also recognized that policies which link economic and social development can contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries with a view to guaranteeing that the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations maximize their benefits from economic growth and development.

K. Resolution 66/211: Science and technology for development

66. In resolution 66/211, the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to 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 and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change. It also reaffirmed its commitment to promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy. The Assembly also reaffirmed its commitment to support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means.

L. Resolution 66/213: Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

67. In resolution 66/213, the General Assembly called upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the 2011 Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development framework and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders. It therefore invited the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

68. The Assembly called upon the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments that had been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas: productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner.

M. Resolution 66/214: 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

69. In resolution 66/214, the General Assembly underlined the prominent role that foreign direct investment played in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognized the considerable role and potential of private-sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, and in that regard encouraged Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries. The Assembly decided to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2013, which should be preceded, where necessary, by regional and global as well as thematic preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner. It underlined that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process.

N. Resolution 66/215: Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

70. In resolution 66/215, the General Assembly stressed the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. It reaffirmed that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts were key elements of sustainable development for all countries and therefore, a priority objective of international cooperation. The General Assembly recognized that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth was essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries. It called upon Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socio-economic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality.

O. Resolution 66/216: Women in development

71. In resolution 66/216, the General Assembly emphasized the need to link policies on economic and social development to ensure that all people, including those living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance with the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

72. The Assembly stressed the importance of the adoption by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of appropriate measures to identify and address the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices and food crisis, and the challenges posed by climate change for women and girls, and of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It urged Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to accelerate their efforts and provide adequate resources to increase the voice and full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of Government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including through eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, to build women's capacity as agents of change and to empower them to participate actively and effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development, poverty eradication and environmental policies, strategies and programmes.

P. Resolution 66/217: Human resources development

73. In resolution 66/217, the General Assembly emphasized the need to address the interlinkages among human resources development, energy and food security, agriculture and rural development, and encouraged Member States to strengthen capacity in agriculture and rural development. It called upon relevant United Nations entities to support national efforts to build institutional capacities to address long-term national human resources development needs in addition to providing training to individuals.

Q. Resolution 66/219: South-South cooperation

74. In resolution 66/219, the General Assembly decided to hold the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation from 29 May to 1 June 2012. It would be preceded by an organizational meeting on 15 February 2012 to elect the President and Bureau of the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee.

R. Resolution 66/223: Towards global partnerships

75. In resolution 66/223, the General Assembly recognized the vital role that the private sector played in development, including through engaging in various partnership models and by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies, as well as stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, while bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies.

IX. Resolutions of relevance to programme and administrative matters**A. Resolution 66/8: Programme planning**

76. In resolution 66/8, the General Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination. It stressed that setting the priorities of the United Nations was the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates. The Assembly also stressed the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process.

B. Resolution 66/81: Questions relating to information

77. In resolution 66/81, the General Assembly called upon the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to play an active role in raising public awareness of the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and of the global challenge of climate change, particularly the actions taken within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially in the context of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It requested the Department and its network of United Nations information centres to take appropriate measures to raise awareness of and disseminate information on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and relevant sustainable development issues.

C. Resolutions 66/110 on observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the in the General Assembly; and 66/112 on observer status for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the General Assembly

78. By resolutions 66/110 and 66/112, the General Assembly granted observer status to the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, respectively.