

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which took into consideration the concepts, ideas and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the above-mentioned report, by which the Assembly decided to transmit to all Governments and to the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, whose main goal is to ensure that economic and social development be environmentally sound and sustainable, and that it meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,

Noting with appreciation the emphasis given by both the report of the World Commission and the Environmental Perspective to the convergence of interests between developed and developing countries on environmental concerns and to the necessity of multilateral co-operation,

Expressing its satisfaction at the results achieved at the First Arab Ministerial Conference on Environmental Considerations in Development, held at Tunis from 13 to 15 October 1986,

Recognizing the need for increased regional and international co-operation in addressing environmental problems which are of a global or regional character or which have a joint impact on neighbouring member countries,

Noting also with appreciation the Joint Summary of the Oslo Conference on Sustainable Development issued on 10 July 1988, particularly in view of the role assigned to the regional commissions in the context of follow-up actions on the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

1. Calls upon member States to devote more attention to environmental considerations in both their overall and sectoral policies, plans and programmes with a view to contributing to environmentally sound and sustainable development;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all environmental considerations into account in the implementation of the Commission's work programme, especially in the areas of agriculture, industry, transport, natural resources, energy, social development and human settlements;

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary to undertake preparations at the regional level with a view to drawing up a report on the position of the Commission to be submitted to the United Nations conference on environment and development to be held not later than 1992;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to explore with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme the possibility of a renewal by the Programme of its institutional support to the Commission in order to strengthen the Commission's efforts to address the priority environmental concerns in the region;

5. Recommends that the member countries should become parties to regional and global conventions dealing with environmental issues, such as the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer;

6. Calls upon the member countries to participate actively in the above-mentioned United Nations conference on environment and development;

7. Appeals to funding institutions and regional and international agencies and programmes concerned with the environment, and to those countries in a position to do so, to provide financial support in order to enable the secretariat to implement regional and subregional environmental projects and to render assistance to member countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and overcoming environmental problems.

3rd plenary meeting

18 May 1989