

71 (VI). Combating desertification in the ECWA region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling that in resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 the General Assembly requested the regional commissions to undertake intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to combat desertification, and to assist Governments in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Further recalling that paragraph 5 of the same resolution recommends that subregional co-operation be initiated or intensified with a view to formulating specific joint programmes,

Aware that the regional commissions have been assigned important responsibilities for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Conscious that problems of desertification seriously affect the socio-economic development process and that desert development is of great importance to the ECWA countries,

Having considered the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/77),

1. Approves the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region,
2. Calls on the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional and international organizations concerned to support fully the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the ECWA Region, together with the implementation of model projects to combat desertification, and to disseminate their results in the countries of the region;
3. Recommends that Governments of member States assess desertification problems at various levels, establish national priorities for action, and select from among these priorities those which could be implemented with the support of regional or international organizations or other foreign sources;
4. Calls on all Governments to make available all necessary financial and other resources and technical support for convening in 1980 a regional meeting which, inter alia, is to consider the implementation of the regional plan of action and to identify and to define intraregional programmes in greater detail;
5. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to initiate and promote intercountry and regional co-operation to combat desertification, particularly in the socio-economic field;
6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to transmit to the Governments of member States, and to the regional and international organizations concerned, the recommendations adopted by the International Expert Consultation on Irrigation and Agriculture Development, convened in February 1979 at Baghdad, which urged the Governments and the organizations concerned to give high priority to these recommendations;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its eighth session a report on the progress achieved in the campaign against desertification.

5th meeting
1 May 1979