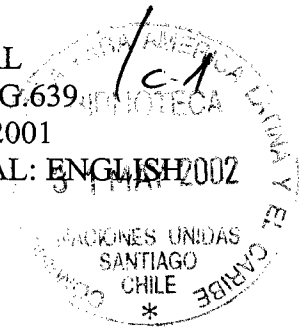


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**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CDCC**





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**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH MAY BE OF  
SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CDCC**

**1. Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (General Assembly Resolution 55/191)**

The General Assembly in this draft resolution recalled the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action (PoA) of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), accepted that certain peculiarities of SIDS present them with unique vulnerabilities, noted the attempts of SIDS towards capacity building, reiterated the need for “strong and effective implementation of the PoA for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” and called on United Nations agencies to assist in the preparation of the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and facilitate measures of implementation of the PoA. Sections of the resolution of particular relevance to the SIDS read as follows:

*“Recognizing that small island developing States, given their size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and, in most cases, isolation from markets, face special challenges and unique vulnerabilities of an environmental and an economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capacity to effectively benefit from the opportunities presented by trade liberalization and globalization, while minimizing their negative impact on small island developing states.”*

And goes on further,

*“Noting the significant efforts to implement the programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international level and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement these efforts being made at the national level, including through effective financial support .”*

The General Assembly then made statement in which it

*“Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to assist small island developing states in their efforts to enhance their capacities to effectively utilize the benefits and mitigate the implications of globalization, including by bridging the digital divide and fostering digital opportunities in the field of information and communication technologies.”*

## 2. **Resolution on International Trade and Development (General Assembly Resolution 55/182)**

The General Assembly reaffirmed the outcome of the Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bangkok from the 12 to 19 February 2000 and noted the need for a favorable and conducive economic environment to engender sustainable development. The Assembly also acknowledged the non equity of benefits of developing states that have assumed the rights and obligations of the World Trade Organization and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for some states to participate in a beneficial manner within international trade. The Resolution accepts that the expansion of international trade as “an engine of growth and development” and is duly concerned with the declining terms of trade for primary commodities, does not condone the use of measures that are implemented under the terms of agreement that are in effect protectionist in nature, reiterates as an ethical imperative the reversal of the present marginalization of the least developed countries and renews calls for expeditious integration of these countries into the economic system. It further exhorts UNCTAD to enhance its contribution to implementation of the SIDS PoA, emphasizes the need for the attainment of greater universality within the world trading system and stresses the need for closer collaboration between “the members and observers of the organizations of the United Nations System and the multilateral trade and financial institutions” to ensure a greater coherence between development objectives and functioning of the international trading and financial system and to combat the negative impacts which volatility of short term capital flows and financial crises may have on the prospects of developing countries”. The Resolution strongly emphasizes the need for technical assistance to developing countries to assist them in trade dispute resolution and to take advantage of the opportunities offered by electronic commerce while providing timely analyses of the fiscal, legal and regulatory aspects of electronic commerce.

Within the context of the Resolution, the General Assembly:

*“Recognizes the importance of the expansion of international trade as an engine of growth and development and, in this context, the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries.”*

And

*“Expresses concern at the declining terms of trade in primary commodities, in particular for net exporters of such commodities, as well as the lack of progress in many developing countries in diversification, and, in this regard, strongly emphasizes the need for action at both the national and international levels, inter alia, through improved market access conditions, addressing supply-side constraints and support for capacity building, including in areas that actively involve women.”*

The resolution then

*“Urges* those countries that have announced market access initiatives in favor of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and have not yet fulfilled them to expedite the implementation of those initiatives, and calls upon other countries that have not yet done so to undertake similar initiatives.”

The Resolution further address issues raised by developing nations and so,

*“Reiterates* the importance of continued trade liberalization in developed and developing countries, including in sectors of export interest to developing countries, through inter alia,

- (a) Substantial reductions of tariffs, the rolling back of tariff peaks and the removal of tariff escalation
- (b) The elimination of trade distorting policies, protectionist practices and non tariff barriers in international trade relations;
- (c) Ensuring that resort to anti dumping duties, countervailing duties, phytosanitary regulations and technical standards is subjected to effective multilateral surveillance so that measures respect and are consistent with multilateral trading rules and obligations and are not used for protectionist purposes;”

And in special reference to regional initiatives

*“Recognizes* the importance of open regional economic integration in the creation of new opportunities for expanding trade and investment, stresses the importance of those initiatives being in conformity with the World Trade Organization rules, where applicable, and, bearing in mind the primacy of the multilateral trading system, affirms that regional trade agreements should be outward oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system and, in this context invites and intergovernmental and multilateral institutions to continue to provide support to economic integration among developing countries, as well as among countries with economies in transition .”

### **3. Review of the problem of human immuno-deficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects (General Assembly Resolution 55/13).**

This resolution drew references to several documents that had preceded its drafting, among them being resolution 55/2 entitled the “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1999/36, the final document adopted at its twenty-third special session on 10 June 2000 on further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the final document adopted at its twenty-fourth Special session on 1 July 2000 on further initiatives for social development.

The General Assembly gives assent to convening of a special session of the General Assembly from 25-27 June 2001 to review the HIV/AIDS problem and to engender support for global action at the national, regional and international levels. The United Nations will deal with

several issues at this special session including the effects of HIV/AIDS on the African continent, international funding and cooperation, human rights aspects, methods of prevention, gender specific impacts and care of infected children, social and economic impacts, health care treatment including research and development of appropriate drugs and the development of national action plans and their implementation.

The General Assembly actively encourages all entities of the United Nations system which may be able to lend assistance in the preparatory processes and to participate at the highest level in the Special Session to bring to the table their experiences, ideas and support to the process. If at all possible, draft declarations of commitment and other relevant documents for consideration should be tabled during the preparatory process in anticipation of submission to the General Assembly.

The Secretary General is to provide to the preparatory process, documents that entail the status of the epidemic and the national, regional and international responses to combat the spread. The need to have the activate participation of civil society in the preparatory process is stressed and recommendations from the President of the General Assembly will outline the methods proposed for the participation of civil society, NGOs, the business sectors and pharmaceutical companies at the Special Session. The establishment of a trust fund by the Secretary-General which will receive donations from governments will ensure the participation of the least developed countries. The Resolution in view of the wide ranging and all encompassing nature of the special session,

*“Requests the Secretary General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all governments, the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial and trade institutions, other intergovernmental organizations, non intergovernmental organizations, non governmental organizations and other relevant civil society actors, as well as the business sector, including pharmaceutical companies.”*

#### **4. Follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (General Assembly Resolution 55/162)**

In this Resolution the General Assembly made reference to its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 and recognized the need to create a framework for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and thus called for “an integrated, coordinated, comprehensive and balanced approach in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration at the national, regional and international levels”, while recognizing that governments bear the main responsibility for “action and implementation of the Millennium Declaration.”

The General Assembly has agreed to use existing mechanisms, structures, conferences and events to facilitate as far as is possible the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and invites the regional commissions, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and regional development banks, to review the progress made towards implementing the Millennium Declaration.



Included in this call are the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, which are to keep the General Assembly informed as to their progress in implementation. The Resolution further

*“Recognizes that the implementation of the Millennium Declaration will require resources and adequate financing at the national, regional and international levels and that additional financial resources are needed, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.”*

The General Assembly also mandated the Secretary General to produce a report every five years, supplemented by an annual report outlining progress towards implementing the Millennium Declaration.

**5. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Special Session of the General Assembly in this regard. (General Assembly Resolution 55/46)**

This resolution takes its genesis from the World Summit for Social Development convened in Copenhagen between the 6 and 12 of March 1995 and the twenty-fourth Session of the General Assembly held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000.

The twenty-fourth Special Session had reviewed and assessed the Copenhagen Declaration and had adopted further actions and initiatives; this resolution reaffirms, among other things, the placing of people at the centre of the concerns of sustainable development, fostering poverty eradication, productive employment, peace and justice and social integration. The resolution, in addition, emphasizes the placing of the goals of social development “at the centre of economic policy making, including in policies that influence domestic and global market forces”.

The resolution invited participation from the entire United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to prioritize steps for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the PoA.

A report on the “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty fourth special session of the General Assembly” will be presented by the Secretary General at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

**6. Third Decade to combat racism and racial discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. (General Assembly Resolution 55/84).**

In this resolution, the General Assembly noted that the combating of discrimination is endemic to the United Nations system, being the organization which drafted the Charter of the

United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination, among others. The General Assembly indicates that in spite of these and the efforts of committees set up for the purpose of combating discrimination, millions of human beings remain victims of racial discrimination. The General Assembly also recognizes that such actions may be propelled by social factors of inequitable wealth distribution, marginalization and social exclusion and advocates the promotion of respect and tolerance for cultural diversity as a primary factor in bringing discrimination to an end. The resolution draws attention to the fact that technological developments in the field of communication have enhanced the ability of groups that promote discrimination to spread their message and while recognizing the importance of legislation to combat the forces of discrimination, remains firmly convinced that there is much more to be done at the national and international level to combat the scourge of racism and racial discrimination which can promote the disintegration of civil society and democracy.

The resolution then calls on member States not to condone or ignore any ideas or materials that promote racial hatred, to draft and enforce legislation to combat racism, educate the populace on the evils thereof and bring to justice the perpetrators of such discrimination. States should also hasten to ratify conventions concerned with elimination of discrimination and, as far as possible, together with NGOs and other organizations to contribute to the fund established to implement the programme of Action against Racism and Racial discrimination in its third decade. Further, special attention is drawn to the needs of migrant workers and their families.

A World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance is set to convene in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001, with the slogan "United to combat Racism: equality, justice, dignity": the United Nations is urged to assist financially with the Preparatory Process and to ensure that as wide a cross section of society is involved in addition to all the relevant agencies with the United Nations system. Within this preparatory process, the United Nations will provide a review of the factors that engender or that are used to promote racism, review progress made towards combating discrimination and make recommendations towards effectively combating the problem. Member States are required to do the same within the preparatory process and should also outline obstacles that hinder the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The World Conference is meant to be action oriented and should produce a declaration and programme of action; discussions should also have a gender sensitive element and consider especially children and young people. Governments are urged to send delegations of youth and indigenous persons to this conference.

The Commission on Human Rights will act as the preparatory committee for the World Conference and States and regional organizations are called upon to raise the awareness of the World Conference.

The United Nations "strongly reaffirms" 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and

*“Emphasizes that the activities should be implemented within the framework of the International Year should be directed towards the preparation of the World Conference and the realization of its objectives.”*

and the General Assembly has decided to keep the item “Elimination of racism and racial discrimination” as a priority item at its fifty-sixth session.

**7. Follow-up to the Fourth 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 (General Assembly Resolution 55/71)**

The General Assembly noted the importance of the twenty-third session which assessed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, identified obstacles and charted the way forward towards implementation of the plan of action. The General Assembly called upon all relevant entities within the United Nations system, NGOs and civil society and all States to act in such a manner as to contribute to the advancement of women worldwide and in the achievement of gender equality. The Resolution also

*“Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to promote a coordinated and integrated follow up and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, and requests the Economic and Social Council to further intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow up to United Nations conferences.....”*

and further,

*“Encourages the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to build up a database to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate their dissemination, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.”*

The General Assembly called for a closer working relationship between the regional commissions and respective governments, but mindful of constraints

*“Reaffirms that, in order to implement the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those of Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required.”*

The General Assembly also reaffirmed that the United Nations itself should demonstrate "...and promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective..", train personnel at Headquarters and in the field to incorporate gender mainstreaming and gender impact analysis in their work and that United Nations bodies specially concerned with women's issues have an important role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. The Secretary-General will present an annual report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and State parties are invited to regularly update information on the measures they have undertaken in fulfilment of the aforementioned Declaration and Plan of Action.

The General Assembly has decided "...to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty sixth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty first century'".

#### **8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children: The girl child (General Assembly Resolution 55/78)**

The resolution in its third paragraph outlines the reason for its propagation, the General Assembly being

*"Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition, physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices such as female infanticide, incest, early marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation."*

The General Assembly recognized that in instances of armed conflict, poverty and sexually transmitted diseases, girl children tend to be at a disadvantage and points out that this is in direct contradiction to universal ratification of human rights instruments including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also reaffirms the girls' education initiative launched at the World Education Forum in Dakar, convened from 26 to 28 April 2000 and points to the particular goal of elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005. The resolution urges the enactment of legislation to

*".....protect girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence."*

The General Assembly called upon States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, NGOs and international organizations to mobilize resources necessary to meet the prescribed goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Platform for Action. Specifically it

*“Urges States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women’s organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences.”*

A Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children will convene at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, and member States and observers are invited to participate in the Congress. Regional commissions and other regional organizations are encouraged to support preparatory processes towards this event.

**9. Improvement of the Status of Women in the United Nations system. (General Assembly Resolution 55/69)**

The Resolution recalls, among other documentation, Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as article 8 which permits no restriction of job placements based on the gender of the applicant and reminds of the goal adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women to have overall gender equality within the United Nations system, especially at the professional level and above by the year 2000.

The resolution took into account “.....the continuing lack of representation or under representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, including, inter alia, least developed countries and small island developing States, and from countries with economies in transition” and goes on to make mention of the expressed commitment of the Secretary General and Executive Heads towards gender equality and mainstreaming within the United Nations system. It notes the participation of offices in workshops on gender mainstreaming and gender issues, but acknowledges that the target for 2000 will not be met and pointed to a situation where in five departments and offices of the Secretariat, women accounted for less than 30 per cent of staff. With this in mind the resolution requested the Secretary General to

*“Develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, other Member States which are un-represented or under-represented in the Secretariat and in occupations in which women are under-represented.”*

The Secretary General was also requested to continue to monitor closely progress in the various departments towards gender balance and to create within the United Nations a work situation which takes into account the needs of both men and women staff and to devise and implement policies which take into account child care, elderly care needs, flexible working hours and possibilities of spouse employment.

Member States are also strongly encouraged to support the United Nations effort towards gender equity and to recommend possible national recruitment sources for suitable women candidates; special consideration should be given to women from developing countries or from countries with economies in transition. States are also urged to appoint suitably qualified women candidates as permanent representatives or at the head of delegations concerned with major economic, social, security, human rights and humanitarian issues.

The Secretary General is required to report statistics on employment of women throughout the United Nations system and on the implementation of departmental plans geared towards gender balance and equity at the fifty-sixth session.

**10. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing. (General Assembly Resolution 55/58).**

The General Assembly reiterated its decisions to convene a Second World Assembly on Ageing in Spain in 8 to 12 April 2002 and that the Commission for Social Development would serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The resolution states that

*“Reiterating that the Second World Assembly on Ageing should give particular attention, inter alia, to linkages between ageing and development, with particular attention to the needs, priorities and perspectives of developing countries.”*

The Assembly is designated to provide an action oriented follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, the plan also outlining realistic financial recommendations for its implementation. Member States are invited to, where appropriate, extend the mandate of national committees set up on account of the International Year of Older Persons into the preparatory process for the World Assembly and that member States, where applicable, should submit reports on the state of and obstacles to implementation on the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The General Assembly promotes the launching of a public information campaign and requests that member States update or submit information to the Internet accessible database on policies and programmes on ageing set up by the United Nations programme on ageing. Further the General Assembly

*“Invites regional commissions to explore the feasibility of holding regional activities with Member States, non governmental organizations and other relevant actors of the*

civil society in their region, in preparation for and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on ageing.”

**11. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence. (General Assembly 55/212)**

Among the documents cited in support of the resolution were the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000, the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at its tenth session from 12 to 19 February 2000 and the Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77 in Havana, Cuba from 10 to 14 April 2000.

The General Assembly recognized “...challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence” but indeed was

*“Expressing concern over the marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the benefits of globalization, the additional vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy and the general accentuation of the income and technological gap between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries.”*

The General Assembly noted the need for appropriate policy responses at the national level for advantage to be obtained from the opportunities now being opened up in trade, investment, capital flows and advances in technology. In addition, it notes the need for support from the international community to assist the least developed countries to improve their institutional and management capacities, while admitting the presence of imbalances and asymmetries in international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns. The General Assembly stresses

*“.....that the process of reform for a strengthened and stable international financial architecture should be based on broad participation in a genuine multilateral approach, involving all members of the international community to ensure that the diverse needs and interests of all countries are adequately represented.”*

Thus there was an “...urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence of all developing countries...”.

The General Assembly reiterated the role of the United Nations as a universal forum and hence an appropriate organization to achieve international cooperation in promoting development within this modern context. From this vantage the General Assembly called for the decision-making process of international economic and financial policy to be more participatory, especially with regard to developing countries and closer cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to facilitate enhanced market access for products of particular interest to developing countries. The Resolution also

*“Stresses the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources, so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development, including through national poverty reduction strategies.”*

The General Assembly urged the major developed economies to ensure coherence with their development assistance and to keep as priorities the problems of market access, persistent external debt, transfer of resources, financial vulnerability and declining terms of trade. Further the General Assembly will give the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society greater opportunities to contribute to these goals; the technology led dimension of globalization was emphasized and a need to promote universal access to information and knowledge was stressed.

The Secretary General will prepare a report which will be “...an analytical report on the effect of increasing linkages and interdependencies among trade. Finance, knowledge, technology and investment on growth and development in the context of globalization, containing action-oriented recommendations, including on appropriate development strategies both at the national and international levels...” and will submit the report to the fifty sixth session of the Assembly, which will contain an item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”.

## **12. Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries. (General Assembly Resolution 55/184)**

The General Assembly noted with concern the continuing debt and debt servicing problems of heavily indebted countries and the adverse effects this was having on their development efforts and economic growth: in addition the present “financial crisis” has exacerbated the problem further.

The General Assembly gives credit to the indebted countries which have sought to implement structural adjustment programmes, sometimes at great social cost and urges that close attention should be paid to the impact of these policies on the poorer strata of the population and urges that poverty reduction should be an integral part of all economic strategies.

The General Assembly noted the efforts made by the Executive Boards of international lending agencies towards debt relief, as well as bilateral cancellation of debts by certain countries and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative launched by the G-7 in June of 1999, but viewed with concern the situation whereby some highly indebted middle income countries are now facing difficulties in meeting their debt obligations.

The Assembly stressed the importance of the economies of developing countries towards the strengthening of the global economy and reaffirmed the need from the international donor community to provide extra finances towards debt relief. A framework for strengthening the link



between debt relief and poverty eradication should be an integral part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The Resolution

*“Calls for concerted national and international action to address effectively debt problems of middle-income developing countries with a view to resolving their potential long term debt sustainability problems through various debt –treatment measures, including as appropriate, existing orderly mechanisms for debt reduction, and encourages all creditors, public and private, and debtor countries to utilize to the fullest extent possible, where appropriate, the mechanisms for debt reduction.”*

The General Assembly however

*“Notes that debt relief alone will not lead to poverty reduction and economic growth and, in this regard, emphasizes the need for an enabling environment including sound economic management as well as an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration, and also stresses the need to mobilize financial resources from all sources, in addition to debt-relief measures as well as continued concessional financial assistance, in particular to the least developed countries, in order to support their efforts for achieving economic growth and sustainable development.”*

The resolution stresses the need for developing countries to provide an environment for foreign investment, while the international environment should strive to create an environment for increased market access for these countries. The United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the international community and the private sector are called upon by the General Assembly to participate in this process of debt relief.

**13. Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (General Assembly Resolution 55/199)**

The Resolution recalls the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, convened in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992 and specifically two documents which arose from the deliberations, namely Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and recalled that these “...should constitute the framework within which the other outcomes of the Conference are reviewed, and from which new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the Conference are addressed” and are not amenable to renegotiation. The General Assembly remains

*“Deeply concerned that, despite many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the Stockholm Conference and the fact that some progress has been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate.”*

And therefore has decided to organize the 10-year review in the hope of reinvigorating the global commitment towards sustainable development and has named the summit “The World Summit on Sustainable Development”.

The review should focus on identification of accomplishments, areas for further attention and promulgate action-oriented decisions where further work is needed as well as bring to the fore any new challenges and opportunities within the context of Agenda 21. The preparatory process should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

The General Assembly has noted and welcomed the preparatory processes taking place thus far within the United Nations organizations and specially mentions the work of the Global Environmental Facility as a source of financing towards the implementation of Agenda 21.

The General Assembly also decided that the meetings of the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) “shall be transformed into an open ended preparatory committee that will provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States Members of the specialized agencies as well as other participants in the CSD in accordance with the rules of procedure .....”. The CSD will serve as the major preparatory session and will address major accomplishments, lessons learnt, institutional and financial requirements and sources of such support, new challenges and opportunities, decide on accreditation for the participation of NGOs and other organizations and any other function as required by the preparatory process.

The CSD will hold three major preparatory sessions in 2002 to review progress and draft documents for submission to the Summit. The preparatory sessions and Summit should seek to include as far as possible contributions from governments, regional and international organizations and any other relevant major groups.

The fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under the item “Environment and Sustainable Development” will contain a sub item entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.

#### **14. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (General Assembly Resolution 55/214).**

The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will convene from 14 to 20 May 2001 in Brussels and will be hosted by the European Union. The Secretary-General has been requested by the General Assembly to use extrabudgetary funds to defray the costs of participation by two members from any LDC at the second and final sessions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, while acknowledging the contributions already received from multilateral and bilateral donors. The conference recognizes the need for participation by civil society actors and relevant stakeholders from the least developed countries,

together with their development partners, as well as organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations.

A new programme of action will be promulgated at the Summit and the General Assembly

*“Stresses that the intergovernmental follow-up, monitoring and review of the new programme of action should be undertaken in a more effective manner, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly least developed countries, as well as with the involvement of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral intergovernmental organizations, and emphasizes the need to explore innovative approaches in this regard.”*

The Secretary-General has been requested to submit a report to the fifty-sixth session on the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

**15. Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (General Assembly Resolution 55/203).**

This resolution refers to several documents that endorse its purpose, among them being the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992, the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in 1994, the Cartagena Convention and the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea. The Resolution introduces the nature of the states in the area under consideration by

*“Considering that the Caribbean Sea includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization.”*

The resolution mentions several aspects of the Caribbean Sea, including its biodiversity and fragility, the reliance of the Caribbean States on their coastal and marine environment for economic benefit, the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, the number of interlocking maritime area and the increasing pollution of the area by land based sources coupled with the attendant risk of hazardous and noxious substances being released into the area by shipping or land sources. The resolution is in fact

*“Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries.”*

And is

*“Cognizant of the importance of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well being and sustenance of people living in the area and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community.”*

The resolution therefore promulgates the adoption of an integrated management approach in the context of sustainable development for the area under consideration, and calls upon the United Nations system, the international community and relevant States, to prevent the degradation of the marine environment by pollutants by the signing and implementation of relevant conventions and protocols. The General Assembly also called upon the international community and multilateral financial institutions to support the approach of the Caribbean States and member States in improving their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage in the event of natural disasters or incidents related to maritime navigation.

The Secretary-General will report at the fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

**16. Integration of the Economies in Transition into the world economy. (General Assembly Resolution 55/191)**

The resolution reaffirms the need to integrate economies in transition into the world economy, taking note also of the progress made by these countries via structural reforms towards the achievement of macroeconomic and financial stability.

The resolution points to the difficulties encountered by countries with economies in transition to adequately respond to globalization trends especially in the fields of information and communications technology, the need to ensure favourable market access for exports and the need to attract foreign investment. The resolution therefore

*“Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in collaboration with relevant non United Nations multilateral and regional institutions, to continue to conduct analytical activities and provide policy advice and technical assistance to the governments of the countries with economies in transition aimed at strengthening the social and political framework for completing market oriented reforms. This with a view to sustaining the positive trends in their economic and social development, and, in this regard, emphasizes the importance of their further integration into the knowledge based world economy through the effective utilization of information and communication technologies.”*

The Secretary-General is requested to provide a report on the implementation of this present resolution at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

**17. Preparation for the substantive preparatory process and the high level, international intergovernmental event on financing for development (General Resolution 55/213).**

The resolution makes reference to progress being made in the consultations with major institutional stakeholders and encourages them and governments to take concrete initiatives in support of the financing for the development preparatory process.

The resolution takes note of the regional consultations being held to provide regional input to the financing for the development process and welcomes the inputs from civil society and looks forward to contributions from the private sector.

The high level international intergovernmental event is scheduled for the first quarter of 2002, on a date yet to be determined and invitations are being extended to countries interested in hosting the event.

The preparatory process will hold a final substantive session from 14 to 25 January 2002, and other sessions will be convened from 12 to 23 February and 30 April to 11 May 2001. The Secretary-General is requested to send out correspondence to all governments to further sensitize them to "...to the high profile and high level of participation that the substantive preparatory process and the high level international intergovernmental event on financing for development deserve."

**18. Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity (General Assembly Resolution 55/186).**

The Resolution

".....recalls resolution 54/197 of 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1999, entitled "Towards a stable international financial system, responsive to the challenges of development, especially in developing countries."

in addition to the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000 and several high level regional meetings on financing for development and emphasizes the importance of having a coherent mobilization of financial resources to promote efficiency in delivery assistance to developing countries.

The declaration also expressed concern about the net contraction in financial flows to developing/least developed countries, the need for long-term investment flows and international cooperation to promote new and additional capital for development. The resolution also brought

to the fore the problems associated with external debt and debt servicing obligations and underlined the need for a wide range of reforms within the international financial system, to enable it to deal more effectively with the new challenges of development and global financial integration. These reforms should be broad based and participatory to ensure that the diverse needs and interests of countries are met; the United Nations, because of its role in the promotion of development, has an indispensable part in this process.

The resolution goes on further to underline and stress the importance of the following;

- (a) the need for a global environment that is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty
- (b) an “..open, equitable, rule based, predictable and non discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system”
- (c) the cooperative effort between institutions and countries, a stable global financial system promoted by a concerted national, regional and international effort and
- (d) the necessity of a enabling domestic environment based on “..rule of law, capacity building, including institutional capacity, and implementation of appropriate economic and social policies, so that domestic and international resources may be effectively mobilized and used for development”.

The document stresses the need for developing countries to be intimately involved in the economic decision-making process and further, that international financial institutions should be sensitive to the peculiar circumstances of the countries they are assisting focusing especially on gender sensitive employment opportunities and poverty reduction strategies to insure the best possible outcomes in terms of growth and development. These efforts should therefore integrate macroeconomic, structural and social policies and there is also need for procedures and resources directed towards the provision of emergency financing in a timely and accessible manner. The resolution therefore

*“Calls upon the international community, in particular the World Bank and the regional development banks, and other relevant international and regional institutions, including the regional commissions, working with the private sector, to support the promotion of long-term private financial flows, especially foreign direct investments, inter alia, through enhanced technical cooperation, to all developing countries as well as economies in transition, in particular the least developed countries and other developing countries with special difficulties in attracting private financial flows.....”*

And

*“Encourages the deepening of the dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, and in this regard recommends that their next high level meeting consider the modalities needed to further consolidate a broader agenda for a strengthened and stable international financial system, responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity in the global economy.”*

The Secretary-General has been requested to present to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, a report on activities called for in this resolution under a sub item entitled "International financial system and development".

**19. Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). (United Nations Resolution 55/195).**

The Special Session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 June 2001. The resolution called on the Secretary-General to consider the further strengthening of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, especially via financial provisions and requests the Secretary-General to obtain funds for at least one member from the least developed countries to attend the second session of the preparatory committee and the special session itself; the same appeal is made to other States for voluntary financial contributions.

The resolution invites relevant organs, funds and programmes, agencies of the United Nations system including the Bretton Woods institutions, to be actively involved in the preparatory and special sessions.

The resolution welcomes the Cities Alliance initiative, a joint effort by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the World Bank (the Cities without Slums programme) as part of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda which are respectively "Adequate Shelter for all" and "Sustainable Human Settlements in an urbanizing world". The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements is requested to report to the special session on the Cities Alliance initiative and the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report on the special session at the fifty-sixth session.

The provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly will include an item "Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic".

N.B. These are the resolutions passed up to 22 December 2000 at the eighty-ninth Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

