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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**
Second session
Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016

2/21. Sand and dust storms

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/195 on combating sand and dust storms, which recognizes that dust and sandstorms, and the unsustainable land management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, and which also recognizes that in the past few years dust and sandstorms have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia,

Recalling also its resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,

Recalling further the landmark resolution WHA68.8 on "health and environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution" adopted by the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, which highlighted the fact that exposure to particulate matter posed a considerable health threat and was the leading environmental risk factor globally and regionally for non-communicable diseases and premature deaths,

Taking note of resolution E/ESCAP/RES/72/7 adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session to initiate regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil the request addressed to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 70/195 to prepare, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, a report entitled "Global assessment of sand and dust storms" to be circulated to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session,

Taking note of the World Meteorological Organization Sand and Dust Storm Warning and Assessment System programme, which is comprised of more than 15 organizations in different geographic regions, including two regional nodes, for North Africa, the Middle East and Europe in Spain and for Asia in the People's Republic of China,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within the programme of work and available resources, support Member States, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners, in addressing the challenges of sand and dust storms through the identification of relevant data and information gaps, policy measures and actions, building on the "Global assessment of sand and dust storms" under General Assembly resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015, and in connection

with the ongoing efforts on air quality monitoring and assessment in response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to engage with all relevant United Nations entities to promote a coordinated approach to combating sand and dust storms globally;

3. *Invites* Member States to intensify monitoring, data collection and knowledge-sharing on all relevant aspects of sand and dust storms, including their impact on ecosystems and human health and well-being; to explore opportunities for cooperation, including North-South, South-South and South-North; and to support the exchange of knowledge and best practices in addressing the problem through practical interventions at the policy, institutional and technical levels, as appropriate;

4. *Also invites* Member States, regional development banks and others in a position to do so to contribute financial resources towards regional initiatives and projects to address the challenge of sand and dust storms;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

*6th plenary meeting
27 May 2016*
