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Sustainable development: combating sand and dust storms

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 10 July 2024

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/78/L.88](#))]

78/314. United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (2025–2034)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [70/195](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/219](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/225](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/237](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/226](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/222](#) of 21 December 2020, [76/211](#) of 17 December 2021, [77/171](#) of 14 December 2022 and [78/158](#) of 19 December 2023 on combating sand and dust storms,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



Recalling its resolution [77/294](#) of 8 June 2023, in which 12 July of each year was proclaimed as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to further raise international awareness of sand and dust storms, and stressing the need for global and regional cooperation to manage and mitigate their effects,

Recalling also its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolutions [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and [1989/84](#) of 24 May 1989 on guidelines for international decades in economic and social fields,

Recognizing that sand and dust storms are an issue of international concern, the costs of which are measured in economic, social and environmental terms, and that sand and dust storms continue to grow and negatively affect the achievement of 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation,

Acknowledging the work done by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹ towards mitigating sand and dust storm issues at source, and acknowledging also the continuing support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for countries affected by sand and dust storms through the promotion of sustainable land use management, agroforestry, shelter belts, afforestation/reforestation and land restoration programmes, which all contribute to sand and dust storm source mitigation,

Noting that sand and dust storms are a challenge with impacts on, among others, infrastructure, transport, communication, agriculture, ecosystems and human health and transboundary impacts that require institutional, technical and scientific responses, and that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries,

Recognizing that sand and dust storms cause numerous human health problems in different regions around the world, especially in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions, and that there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human health and well-being,

Stressing the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to managing and mitigating the effects of sand and dust storms through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast sand and dust storms, and affirming that resilient action to combat and prevent sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and, among other factors, is a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries, including those affected by sand and dust storms, and emphasizing that, among other factors, climate change is an important potential contributor to future wind erosion and the risk of sand and dust storms, especially the occurrence of more extreme wind events and the movement towards drier climates, although reverse effects are possible,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2025–2034 the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, within existing structures and available resources, with the

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

aim of enhancing international and regional cooperation and supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and mitigate the negative effects of sand and dust storms, especially on the affected countries;

2. *Stresses* that combating sand and dust storms contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;²

3. *Recalls* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and the Paris Agreement,⁴ the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, including the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme, as well as the outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for further steps to accelerate and sustain action towards the mobilization of means of implementation and for the stepping up of international cooperation and collaboration in science, research and innovation for combating sand and dust storms at the local, national and regional levels, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels;

6. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers of the General Assembly, as well as organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms;

7. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

8. *Decides*, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/84, to review the implementation of the Decade at its eighty-fourth session, and requests, in this regard, the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eighty-fourth session on the status of the implementation of the Decade, including its contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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² Resolution 70/1.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.