



Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 18 (j)

Sustainable development: combating sand and dust storms**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 8 June 2023***[without reference to a Main Committee (A/77/L.72)]***77/294. International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its resolution [77/171](#) of 14 December 2022 and its previous resolutions 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 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 resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,*Stressing* the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing, 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, through seasonal and subseasonal analysis and long-term climate change projections of related parameters, and

affirming that resilient action to combat and reduce 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, threatening food security, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

Recognizing that sand and dust storms and their negative impacts at different scales are issues 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,

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,

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,

Commending the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on its efforts to develop both a global base map of sand and dust storm sources, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, and the *Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks*, and acknowledging the global assessment of sand and dust storms prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other relevant United Nations system entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which sets out proposals for consolidated and coordinated technical and policy options for responding to sand and dust storms,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 12 July as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to be observed annually;

2. *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 observe the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, through education and activities aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of combating sand and dust storms for, inter alia, human health and well-being, the promotion of sustainable land use and management, enhancing food security and resilience to climate change and sustainable livelihoods;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms to facilitate the observance of the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#);

4. *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;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers of the General Assembly, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance.

*77th plenary meeting
8 June 2023*
