

PROVISIONS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATES IN WEATHER MODIFICATION

(Decision 8/7/A of the Governing Council of UNEP of 29 April 1980)

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that the atmosphere is a natural resource of the earth,

Noting the possible benefits which weather modification may hold for mankind and the environment,

Desiring that weather modification should serve the interests of international understanding and co—operation,

Desiring further that the provisions set out below should be interpreted in such a way as to promote the improvement of weather modification technology and its beneficial use,

Recalling the declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, approved at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, inter alia, Principles 1, 2, 20 and 21.

Recalling further the relevant decisions of the seventh and eighth World Meteorological Congresses (1975 and 1979) and those of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 31/72 of 10 December 1976 on the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques,

Recognizing that the application and further development of the following provisions has to be closely related to the existing state of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of weather modification,

1. Recommends that States should take into account the following provisions:

- (a) Weather modification should be dedicated to the benefit of mankind and the environment;
- (b) Exchange of information, notification, consultation and other forms of co-operation regarding weather modification should be carried out on the basis of good faith, in the spirit of good neighborliness and in such a way as to avoid any unreasonable delay either in such forms of co—operation or in carrying out weather modification activities;
- (c) States should gather and record technical and scientific information on weather modification activities. They should ensure that such information is made available to the World Meteorological Organization, which should continue to prepare and distribute appropriate reports on weather modification activities.
- (d) States should to the extent possible give, either directly or through the World Meteorological Organization, adequate and timely notification to all concerned States of prospective weather modification activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to have an effect on areas within the national jurisdiction of such concerned States:

* The term “weather modification”, as used herein, means any action performed with the intention of producing artificial changes in the properties of the atmosphere for purposes such as increasing, decreasing or redistributing precipitation or cloud coverage, moderating severe storms and tropical

cyclones, decreasing or suppressing hail or lightning or dissipating fog.

- (e) States should ensure that an assessment is made of the environmental consequences of prospective weather modification activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to have an effect on areas outside their national jurisdiction, and either directly or through the World Meteorological Organization, make the results of such assessments available to all concerned States:
- (f) Weather modification activities should be conducted in a manner designed to ensure that they do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- (g) A State under whose jurisdiction or control weather modification activities are planned or are taking place which are likely to have an effect on areas outside its national jurisdiction should, upon the request of a concerned State, either directly or through the World Meteorological Organization, enter into timely consultation concerning such activities;
- (h) States should encourage and facilitate international co-operation in weather modification activities, including research, and, as may be appropriate, the conclusion of bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to communicate to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on a periodic basis all the information that will be made available to him in accordance with the present decision;

3. Further Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on the information thus received.