

# **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

## **REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SESSION**

(18-29 May 1981)

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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**UNITED NATIONS**

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**NOTE**

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## Chapter I

### MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY, OR BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

#### A. Matters requiring action by the Council

1. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I

##### Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

The Economic and Social Council,

Pursuant to its resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Recognizing the importance of natural resources for economic development, in particular non-metallic raw materials,

Recalling that the Committee on Natural Resources has considered copper, nickel and chromium, and molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium as well as phosphate rock and potash, at its fifth, sixth and seventh sessions respectively,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in respect of mineral resources, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium and including problems of transfer of technology (E/C.7/115), and on phosphate rock and potash (E/C.7/114),

Taking into account the work undertaken by other relevant United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources a comprehensive report on the prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials, with special reference to non-metallic minerals for the construction, paper, ceramics and glass industries bearing in mind developments in material science; in the report, special attention should be paid to measures that might be undertaken to evaluate prospective raw materials in developing countries.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to rare metals, especially tantalum, niobium (columbium) and lithium

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to Economic and Social Council resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Recalling that issues related to the raw materials base of the copper, nickel, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt, vanadium and phosphate rock and potash industries have been discussed at previous sessions of the Committee on Natural Resources,

Reaffirming that the Committee on Natural Resources should continue to consider problems of availability and supply of natural resources of selected minerals and metals,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session a report evaluating the development prospects of rare metals, with special reference to tantalum, niobium (columbium) and lithium; in the report, special attention should be paid to measures that might be undertaken in the developing countries to increase exploration for and production of these metals.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Survey of planned investment for mineral development

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to its resolution 1954 (LIX), of 25 July 1975, on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Bearing in mind that continued investment in exploration for mineral resources and in new mines and processing plants is of great importance for the development of the mineral sector of all countries, especially the developing countries, and for assuring uninterrupted supplies of vital mineral raw materials,

Aware that information on planned investment and its regional distribution, while important for policy decisions by Governments, is not adequately available to most developing countries or is often unreliable and not detailed enough,

Recognizing that the actual implementation of exploration programmes and the development of new capacity are not in many cases readily available,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session a report analysing both planned and effectively made investments in major mineral industries, in particular, in regard to the

regional distribution of mineral exploration and development; in the report, special attention should be paid to measures that might be undertaken to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to respond promptly to changing situations and to establish and implement effective mineral resources development policies.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

##### Availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash

##### The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to its resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Bearing in mind that a number of developing countries are interested in an evaluation of the situation with regard to exploration for and development of indigenous fertilizer raw materials, in particular phosphate rock, and the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash", 1/

Taking into account the work undertaken by other United Nations organizations in the field of fertilizers, such as that of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the phosphate resources research project of the International Geological Correlation Program,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources a report identifying possible new locations for exploration for phosphate rock and potash in the developing countries, making use of advanced exploration techniques where appropriate, on the basis of available geological data;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist in the evaluation of known and newly discovered deposits on the basis of available data bearing in mind (a) the need for the use of low-grade ores and local sources of raw materials in fertilizer manufacture; (b) the economic advantages of direct application of phosphate rock in agriculture; and (c) the need to update the data on the future availability of this non-renewable resource;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations, to examine the possibility of specific activities, including workshops and study tours, in order to assist developing countries in the identification and subsequent technical and economic evaluation of their fertilizer raw materials, with special emphasis on techniques suitable under the climatic and infrastructural conditions of those countries and with the view of improving the flow of information and transfer of technology to those countries;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to explore all possible sources of funding for such programmes;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session on progress achieved on these questions.

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1/ E/C.7/114.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Water resources development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/191 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly requested the Committee on Natural Resources to review during the 1980s the progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 2/

Taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and decided to hold a mid-period review at its fortieth session,

Bearing in mind resolution 25, on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 3/

Recognizing that access to adequate supplies of clean water affects not merely health but also general development, including human productivity, crop cultivation, livestock production, small-scale industry and over-all economic growth,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68 and 1979/70 of 3 August 1979, concerning the follow-up activities for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Reiterating the importance of the provisions of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in promoting the accelerated development and orderly administration of water resources for the improvement of the economic and social well-being of mankind,

Deeply concerned that Governments of developing countries continue to be faced with serious constraints in carrying out their water development activities, including a shortage of trained manpower, inadequate financial resources, deficiencies in institutional and legal frameworks and lack of equipment,

Bearing in mind that the majority of Governments of developing countries have expressed the view that bilateral and multilateral co-operation, in the form of, inter alia, the provision of scholarships, financing, equipment and technical advisory services, would be helpful in overcoming the above-mentioned constraints,

Taking note of the three reports prepared by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, entitled: "Present status of water resources development: progress and prospects since the United Nations Water Conference", 4/ "Progress and prospects relative to water resources policy, planning, legislation and institutional arrangements: proposals for

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2/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

3/ See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum) chap. I, sect. B.

4/ E/C.7/117.



interdisciplinary missions', 5/ and "Present and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development", 6/

I. Water resources planning, policy formulation, legislation and institutional mechanisms for co-ordinating national interests

1. Recalls the importance of the provisions of section D of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ and asks those Governments that have not done so to formulate a national water policy statement that allows for the harmonization of their water development plans within the framework of national economic development planning, and to keep under review the objectives and methods of planning;

2. Urges Governments to intensify their efforts in the formulation and updating of water legislation, where appropriate, taking into account the applicable experiences of other countries;

3. Reiterates the importance of co-ordinating water resources at the national as well as the regional and local levels, as a means of effective and comprehensive planning for development and management of national water resources;

4. Endorses the proposal for the organization of interdisciplinary missions, staffed by experts from the various organizations of the United Nations system, to render technical assistance to Governments, inter alia, on the formulation of comprehensive water policies, the setting up of appropriate legislative and administrative arrangements and the formulation of national master plans, in response to requests from Governments and in line with the specific requirements of those Governments and on the understanding that those missions would be organized along the lines set out in paragraph 87 of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its seventh session and funded out of extra-budgetary resources as specified in that paragraph;

5. Requests the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to inform Governments of developing countries, through the resident co-ordinators of the United Nations system, of the possibility of requesting the services of such advisory missions;

II. Assessment of water resources

1. Urges Governments to intensify their activities in water resources assessment - which is a prerequisite for national water resources development, planning and management - to include, inter alia, the strengthening of services for the collection, processing and dissemination of water resources data, the improvement of studies on the water cycle and hydrological processes and on their interaction with human activities and the ecosystems, as well as improvements in the procedures for the areal assessment of water resources, and the development of appropriate infrastructure;

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5/ E/C.7/118.

6/ E/C.7/120.

2. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and other organizations concerned to promote unified methodologies for water resources assessment and to enhance international co-operation in this area;

### III. Education, training and research and development

1. Urges Governments of Member States to increase their capabilities to provide training and research at the national level by setting up new facilities and/or increasing the capacity of existing ones in the various fields of water resources, including planning, legislation, the assessment of water resources, their development and use for different purposes, such as agriculture, municipal water supplies and industry, and the preservation of ecological systems;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to develop integrated and comprehensive approaches and programmes with regard to education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session;

3. Requests the regional commissions and the organizations concerned to consider the establishment and upgrading of regional and subregional water training programmes and networks, taking into account the existing arrangements, and requests the Secretary-General to report on progress made in this regard to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session;

### IV. Technical co-operation among the developing countries in water resources development

1. Urges Governments of developing countries to intensify co-operation in the form of technical co-operation among developing countries in such areas as information exchange, the exchange of consultant services, technical and economic co-operation projects, the establishment of joint water management centres and the standardization of services in the development of water resources;

2. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme and the other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with water development to play catalytic roles in promoting projects for technical co-operation among interested developing countries by assisting in formulating and carrying out proposals designed to promote co-operation among developing countries;

### V. International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

1. Calls upon Governments to take concrete steps, including the establishment of national committees, to proceed rapidly with the development of rational action plans for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and to attain their respective targets for the Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/18;

2. Further calls upon Governments of Member States to give sufficient priority to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in their over-all development plans so that adequate resources for achieving the targets set for the Decade may be made available;

3. Notes the progress being made by organizations in the United Nations system in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in particular the role of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action, in bringing about a concerted approach to these activities and calls upon the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to increase their technical co-operation with and financial support of developing countries to bring about a substantial improvement in the level of services in drinking water supply and sanitation by 1990;

4. Urges Governments to recognize the role of the resident co-ordinator in carrying out his responsibilities as the focal point for co-operative action for the Decade at the country level and to provide assistance to facilitate that task;

#### VI. International co-operation in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

1. Takes note of the arrangements made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for co-operation and co-ordination at the international level;

2. Takes note of the guidelines agreed upon by the organizations of the United Nations System for consultation and co-ordination with regard to field project activities, 7/ and looks forward to their implementation;

3. Recommends that the United Nations Development Programme and all other programmes and agencies of the system, including the World Bank, engaged in executing technical assistance programmes and projects in developing countries in the field of water resources development, funded by the United Nations Development Programme, ensure the full application of the policies relating to technical co-operation annexed to General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 and the policies governing the execution of such programmes and projects, inter alia, as set out in decisions 25/20 of 3 July 1978 and 79/48 of 10 July 1979 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, so as to ensure the maximum possible participation, as appropriate, of local technical and material resources, and to place fullest possible reliance on the local resources, including engineering consultants and contractors, wherever they are found competent to handle their task independently or in collaboration with foreign consultants; in the implementation of these policies, due consideration should continue to be given to making local foreign consulting firms and contractors jointly responsible when the local firm is a major participant; in appropriate situations the lead/principal role in joint ventures should be given to the major contributors, whether local or foreign firms; full implementation of the procedures and rules already established and those which may be agreed upon in the future by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme is essential to improve the effectiveness of

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7/ E/C.7/120, para. 170.

the Programme's assistance to the developing countries for enhancing their capabilities to implement the Mar del Plata Action Plan within the shortest possible time;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system, a report based on existing material on the progress Governments have made in achieving the goals of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, to be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session with a view to enabling the Committee to make its contribution in those fields to the first review of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, scheduled for 1984;

5. Calls upon the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session to review further the over-all progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan by Governments and by the United Nations system, simultaneously with the review of the progress in the attainment of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade to be carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/91 and 35/18 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1957 B (LIX) of 25 July 1975.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

##### Water resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution VII of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 8/ adopted by the United Nations Water Conference,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which the Council endorsed, inter alia, resolution VII of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Noting with satisfaction that the first Interregional Meeting of International River Organizations, organized by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in co-operation with the Government of Senegal and the Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal, was held at Dakar, from 5 to 14 May 1981;

Considering that the first Interregional Meeting of International River Organizations reached a number of conclusions in fields pertaining to the development, use, and protection of international water resources,

Further considering that some conclusions emanating from this Meeting call for the immediate attention of the pertinent United Nations bodies, agencies and organizations,

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8/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

1. Urges States members of existing international river and lake organizations and the secretariat of such organizations to consider furthering the exchange of information on the development, use, and protection of international water resources by transmitting to the Secretary-General for systematic collection, analysis and distribution periodic information concerning activities, projects and programmes of international river and lake organizations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing budgetary and manpower resources:

(a) To establish within the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development a support function for the collection, analysis, and periodic distribution of information concerning the activities, programmes and developments of interested international river and lake organizations;

(b) To prepare a manual on the technical and managerial aspects of the development, use and protection of international water resources, drawing on the competence of the organizations of the United Nations system, as required;

(c) To organize periodically interregional seminars and to facilitate the exchange of personnel on specific technical and managerial aspects of the development, use, and protection of international water resources;

3. Urges the regional commissions to consider, at the request of the Government concerned, and whenever appropriate, the promotion of training activities for the preparation of qualified cadres of managers, administrators and technicians needed for the development, use and protection of international water resources.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

### Utilization of subsurface space

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned by the problems of population, urbanization and overcrowding and the need to provide people with food, water and fuel,

Recognizing the potential of subsurface space for, inter alia, the storage of water, energy, food and other commodities as well as for water supply, sewage handling and conservation of energy,

Taking into account the experience of the use of subsurface space already existing in many parts of the world,

Requests the Secretary-General to compile a report on the utilization of subsurface space, with particular reference to the potential benefits to the developing countries, bearing in mind the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources and drawing upon documentation already available, to be considered by the Committee at its eighth session.

2. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its seventh session  
and draft provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session  
of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its seventh session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Committee, as set out below:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Mineral resources:
  - (a) Trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology:
    - (i) Non-metallic minerals
    - (ii) Rare metals
  - (b) New sources of phosphate rock and potash, particularly low grade deposits
  - (c) Survey of investments in mining
  - (d) Terminology for minerals production and consumption

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues, including transfer of technology, with particular reference to non-metallic minerals

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues, including transfer of technology, with particular reference to rare metals

Report of the Secretary-General on new locations for exploration for phosphate rock and potash in the developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General on the survey of planned investment for mineral development

Report of the Secretary-General on the standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources

4. Energy resources: trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy

5. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on new techniques for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources

6. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

Documentation

Report of the Administrator of UNDP on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

7. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the question of recent developments affecting permanent sovereignty over natural resources

8. Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

9. Utilization of subsurface space

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of subsurface space

10. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources: minerals

11. Draft provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Committee

12. Adoption of the report of the Committee

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolution and decisions adopted by the Committee:

Resolution 7/1. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 concerning the establishment of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/194 of 29 January 1979 on multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/65 of 3 August 1979,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; 9/

2. Takes note also of the report of the Working Group of Government Experts on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration 10/ and commends it to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration;

3. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it should request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to prepare a report, to be submitted through the Governing Council of the Programme to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, on co-operation between the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and other units and organizations of the United Nations system.

156th meeting  
27 May 1981

Decision 7/1. Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: natural resources and energy programmes

At its 156th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the Committee on Natural Resources, having expressed its regret that the States members of the Committee had not been in a position to prepare detailed comments on the draft of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 because it had been made available to them only during the session, in one language, and having noted that the comments of the States members of the Committee were to be taken into account by the Secretary-General in preparing the proposed medium-term plan, decided:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to recast, in the light of the comments made, as early as possible, the relevant sections of the draft of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and to submit them in all the working languages of the Committee to the States members of the Committee and the

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9/ DP/537.

10/ E/1981/23.



States participating as observers for comments, which should be submitted within an appropriate time-limit to be determined by the Secretary-General;

(b) To request further the Secretary-General to ensure that all documents submitted to the Committee at subsequent sessions are available in time in all the working languages of the Committee.

Decision 7/2. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

At its 157th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the Committee on Natural Resources decided:

(a) To take note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning developments which have taken place since its sixth session relating to the exercise by developing countries of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources (E/C.7/119);

(b) To recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources" should remain on the agenda of the Committee and that a further report on developments should be prepared by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Committee at its eighth session, including reference to such activities as may have been carried out within the United Nations system on the lines recommended in chapter IV of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Possible action by the United Nations system and other international agencies".

Decision 7/3. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying exploring and assessing natural resources

At its 157th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the Committee on Natural Resources took note of the report of the Secretary-General on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources. 11/

4. The Council's attention is also drawn to the Committee's consideration of the draft proposals submitted under item 4 of the Committee's agenda, entitled "Energy resources". 12/

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11/ E/C.7/116.

12/ See chap. III below, paras. 48 to 57.

## Chapter II

### MINERAL RESOURCES

5. The Committee considered item 3 at its 145th, 146th and 150th meetings on 19, 20 and 22 May 1981. It had before it two reports of the Secretary-General on mineral resources: "Mineral resources: availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash" (E/C.7/114), prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/71, and "Mineral resources: trends and salient issues, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium, including problems of technology transfer" (E/C.7/115), prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1979/78.

6. The item was introduced by the Director of the Division of Natural Resources and Energy, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, who pointed out that the basic trends had not changed substantially since the previous (sixth) session of the Committee, held at Istanbul from 5 to 15 June 1979. Low price levels for major mineral commodities and high interest rates, combined with increasingly larger sizes of individual projects, continued to inhibit investment in new production capacities. Concerning short-term trends, the improvement in demand and prices mentioned in the Secretary-General's report referred to the period up to and including 1980. Since then, prices of a number of minerals and metals had declined and demand had been at a relatively low level. One example was the production of steel, which had declined by more than 4 per cent in 1980 as compared to 1979. Prices of several mineral commodities had stabilized during recent months, though at lower levels than those reached at times during 1980. That applied in particular to alloy metals used in steel production, such as molybdenum and cobalt, although the prices of major metals, such as copper, and of precious metals, including silver, gold and platinum, had also been affected.

7. The Director noted that, while mineral exploration activities world-wide may not have increased during the past two years, the number of projects executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, as a part of its technical co-operation programme, had risen. There were currently 55 mineral projects, as against about 45 previously.

8. Assessment missions in the field of mineral and energy exploration and development, undertaken by the Division of Natural Resources and Energy, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/201, had been completed in 23 developing countries in the minerals sector and in 18 countries in the field of energy. The continuation of the programme, which had been recognized as very valuable to the participating developing countries, was dependent on the availability of additional funding. In that context the Director invited those countries which so far had not requested such a mission to do so in the future.

9. Referring to recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/115), the Director noted that information on the regional distribution of planned investment in mine development had often been incomplete and not very reliable. The United Nations could undertake a comprehensive survey of planned

investment and the regional distribution of project development, which would form a valuable basis for policy-making and would provide guidance for follow-up activities within the framework of United Nations technical co-operation activities in the minerals field.

10. Finally, the Director drew the attention of the Committee to agenda items 5, 7, 8 and 11, which, in part, were concerned with issues of mineral resources development.

A. Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium, including problems of transfer of technology

11. The Committee noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium, including problems of transfer of technology (E/C.7/115). Several delegations referred to the increased importance which the Committee on Natural Resources would have in contributing to more efficient mineral development during the 1980s. Some delegations, while agreeing in principle with the analysis provided by the report, indicated that the information functions of the United Nations regarding the supply of and demand for natural resources should be strengthened so as to allow the setting of priorities.

12. The Committee noted with approval the work of the United Nations regarding assessment missions in the field of mineral and energy exploration and development in implementation of General Assembly resolutions concerning multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources. There was, however, some doubt expressed by one delegation as to whether the authorized budget would be sufficient for the continuation of the programme. Some delegations stated that those missions should be financed from voluntary contributions and not by drawing upon the regular budget.

13. The Committee referred to the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/115) to carry out a survey of planned investment and the regional distribution of project development. Though information on the subject was available in trade publications, more detailed data were necessary for policy decisions, in particular in the developing countries, which often lacked such information. Knowledge of future investment plans would assist Governments in setting priorities in the establishment of mineral development policies. It would also be very important for planning future technical co-operation activities by the United Nations in the minerals field.

14. One delegation recommended that future reports on the supply and demand of metals should contain information on the quality of mined ores, mining and concentration processes and different stages of further processing and pointed out that, although the share of the developing countries in direct foreign investment had declined in the past, their share in the value of production of the most important metals had been growing. To the last assertion, another delegation replied that, according to figures in its possession, the developing countries' share in world production had increased for some metals but had declined for others, and that it had, on average, been static since 1950 for the non-energy ores as a whole. While continuing to be concerned with problems of investment in the

mining sector, the Committee should also deal with such issues as substitution, recycling and the impact of environmental regulations on investment policies. It was also recommended that the Committee closely follow the negotiations on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, which was considered a positive initiative towards the stabilization of commodity markets.

B. Availability and supply of selected minerals:  
phosphate rock and potash

15. The Committee commented on the usefulness of the report on the availability and supply of selected minerals: Phosphate rock and potash (E/C.7/114). Some delegations pointed out, however, that the report did not always clearly distinguish between reserves and resources and that the data contained in the report were not always directly comparable.

16. The Committee noted the importance of fertilizers for food production, which would have to increase substantially in the future. The production of fertilizer raw materials, in particular potash, was heavily concentrated, and most countries were therefore importers of those raw materials. Additional exploration and research and development activities would be highly desirable for reducing the dependence of importing countries on outside sources.

17. Developing countries, because of their dependence on fertilizer imports, in particular, would need increased assistance in exploration for fertilizer raw materials and the adaptation of technologies to the special conditions in their countries. Several delegations emphasized the role the United Nations could play in the transfer of technology to the developing countries and in the strengthening of technical co-operation activities in fertilizer raw materials exploration and development. Some delegations doubted, however, that a working group, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, would be sufficient, and others doubted whether it would serve a useful purpose. Expanded technical co-operation was called for if the development of fertilizer raw materials was to be accelerated.

18. While agreeing, in principle, with the demand forecast provided in the Secretary-General's report, one delegation noted that it would be useful if different scenarios could be included in future reports. Those scenarios could include an analysis of fertilizer requirements in relation to desirable levels of food production.

19. Although resources of potash and phosphate rock were abundant in some parts of the world, it was noted that several developing countries had only low-grade and marginal deposits which, nevertheless, could be developed if suitable technologies were available. Several delegations drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that the upgrading of low-grade and marginal phosphate rock deposits was as important as exploration for additional resources, since many countries which had the deposits often lacked the suitable technology to produce high-quality fertilizer.

20. Concerning the possibility of future reports on specific minerals and metals being submitted to the next (eighth) session of the Committee, delegations suggested the following minerals and metals: non-metallic minerals, rare metals; and tungsten. The Committee discussed several fields of activity in which the

United Nations could contribute to the development of the mineral sector - among them, proposals to undertake a survey of planned investment and to carry out research and development programmes for fertilizer production from low-grade resources.

#### Action by the Committee

##### Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

21. At the 153rd meeting, on 26 May 1981, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of Ghana, <sup>13/</sup> Jamaica, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.90) entitled "Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials".

22. At the same meeting, the Director of the Energy and Natural Resources Division suggested that, in the operative paragraph, the words "with special reference to raw materials" should be corrected to read "with special reference to non-metallic minerals".

23. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution, as orally corrected (see chap. I, draft resolution I).

##### Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to rare metals, especially tantalum, niobium (columbium) and lithium

24. At the 153rd meeting, on 26 May 1981, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of the German Democratic Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.91) entitled "Development prospects of selected rare metals". Bulgaria subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the 155th meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the title of the draft resolution to read "Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to rare metals, especially tantalum, niobium (columbium) and lithium" and, in the operative paragraph, deleted the words "beryllium and zirconium; the report may also cover rare earths" appearing after the word "lithium".

26. Following a statement by the representative of Spain, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, draft resolution II).

##### Survey of planned investment for mineral development

27. At the 153rd meeting, on 26 May 1981, the representative of Turkey introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.92) entitled "Survey of planned investment for mineral development".

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<sup>13/</sup> In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure.

28. At the 155th meeting, on 27 May, the representative of Finland orally proposed an amendment to the operative paragraph whereby the words "planned investment" would read "both planned and effectively made investments".

29. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see chap. I, draft resolution III).

Availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash

30. At the 153rd meeting, on 26 May 1981, the representative of India, on behalf of Argentina, Chad, India and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.93) entitled "Availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash".

31. At the 155th meeting, on 27 May, the representative of India, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution by inserting the words "on the basis of available data" after the words "and newly discovered deposits".

32. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland orally proposed that the words ", in collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations" be inserted in operative paragraph 3 after the words "Requests the Secretary-General", and in operative paragraph 4 the representative of Jamaica orally proposed that the word "available" be replaced by the words "all possible".

33. Those amendments were accepted by the sponsors, and the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, draft resolution IV).

34. In response to a question raised by a delegation, the Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that draft resolutions I, II, III and IV did not have programme budget implications.

### Chapter III

#### ENERGY RESOURCES

35. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 149th and 150th meetings, on 21 and 22 May 1981. The Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on trends and issues with regard to energy (E/C.7/123) and on the United Nations Symposium on World Coal Prospects (E/C.7/121).

##### A. Trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology

36. The Director of the General Analysis and Policy Division, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on trends and issues with regard to energy (E/C.7/123). In his remarks, he noted that energy use and development were intimately related. The world energy economy faced the problem of providing adequate supplies to meet the growing future needs of its expanding population, seeking higher levels of well-being. The era of cheap energy had ended, and the world was seeking to adjust to a higher energy cost future. Diversification of energy sources had become the key element during the period of transition from hydrocarbons to more abundant or non-depleting forms of energy. The world energy economy during that transition period would continue to depend on non-renewable conventional energy sources, particularly petroleum, and measures for intensified exploration and development of conventional energies must be pursued on an intensified scale. That would entail large investments in conventional energy, including investment in research and development. He continued by observing that the report of the Secretary-General briefly reviewed the current and medium-term situation in the energy sector and discussed at length the long-term transitional period. In the latter, two possible evolutionary paths of the energy sector and of the world economy were considered. One of them was based on the events of the recent past, and the other on the likely effects of more intensified policy action by Governments.

37. In the discussion which followed, several speakers reported on energy developments in their own countries, and a number commented on the seriousness of the world's energy situation, for developing countries, particularly for the oil-importing, energy-short developing countries.

38. Several representatives commended the report of the Secretary-General. Two speakers questioned the realism of the results pertaining to energy prices in one of the scenarios presented in that document. A member of the Secretariat explained that the scenario in question was predicated upon very vigorous governmental policy measures limiting demand for energy and increasing its supply and that the results relating to price needed to be judged in that context. One representative suggested that more account should have been taken of the influence of higher costs which might follow from the doubling of world demand by the year 2000, an assumption in the scenario. Another representative expressed the view that it would have been desirable to have placed greater emphasis upon the need for predictability of

future energy prices. Another representative thought that much greater stress should have been placed upon new and renewable energy sources, specifically, and that the report should have been organized differently in order to avoid repetition of similar points in different sections of the report and for different country groups.

39. The Chairman noted that the obstacles to energy investment in oil-importing developing countries, discussed in paragraph 46 of the report, were exacerbated by the unpredictability of energy prices. He also drew the attention of the group to paragraphs 56-62 of the report, in which the problem of spurring the flow of external capital to oil-importing developing countries was posed, and asked the Committee what it was prepared to state in its report about that vital subject. Several representatives emphasized the exhaustible nature of hydrocarbon fuels on which the world is so heavily dependent at the moment, and one called for studies of diversification of energy sources in oil-importing developed countries.

40. A number of Governments made proposals for follow-up activity. For example, it was suggested that reports providing a broad overview of the energy question, based upon continuous monitoring of energy trends, be prepared. Several speakers emphasized the importance of the question of investment in the energy sector, and called for additional studies to complement the material provided in paragraphs 56-62 of document E/C.7/123.

## B. Technical questions

### World coal prospects

41. The Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, explained that the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/121 and Corr.1) summarized the main conclusions and suggestions of the United Nations Symposium on World Coal Prospects, the first one to be convened by the United Nations.

42. The Director pointed out that the developing countries were encountering many difficulties in developing their coal resources. In 1979, while the production of coal by developed countries had increased by 10 per cent, production in developing countries had increased by only 2.1 per cent. The Committee was therefore called on to pay particular attention to the recommendations submitted to the Symposium by the participants from developing countries (*ibid.*, para. 41). The Director asked the Committee for guidance on how to implement the recommendations. To illustrate the increasing interest shown by developing countries in developing their coal resources, the Director informed the Committee that for the last two years, the Natural Resources and Energy Division had received requests from eight developing countries for technical assistance.

43. The Committee noted the report of the Secretary-General on the Symposium. While one representative felt the conclusions should be expanded in order to enable the Committee to make more specific recommendations, some delegations supported the recommendations formulated by the participants from developing countries to the Symposium; others did not support them. In particular, the Committee considered the strengthening of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to be



instrumental for the preparation of studies on the resource requirements and constraints of each of the developing countries in the coal sector. Certain delegations expressed the view that the means to provide financial resources for that purpose should be explored.

44. Representatives from developing countries stressed the importance of setting up a mechanism by which the channelling of financial and technical assistance to the developing countries for coal development could be accelerated, and the exchange of technical information and the transfer of technologies in coal production and utilization could be fostered.

45. Some representatives of major coal-producing countries expressed their readiness to assist developing countries by providing experts and conducting training programmes for developing countries. One representative offered to act as host country to seminars for developing countries on the development, extraction and processing of coal.

46. One representative suggested that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, in the study of each country's problems, should evaluate and advise on the impact of conversion or reconversion to coal power, underlining the benefits and hazards of coal transportation and utilization, with special emphasis on environmental impact.

47. One representative pointed out the dilemma in the supply and demand relationship of coal. On the one hand, the consumers were unwilling to shift from petroleum to coal unless they were assured of the security of long-term coal supplies. On the other hand, coal exporters were reluctant to increase investments in coal production if sufficient demand for coal was not anticipated.

#### Action by the Committee

48. At the 156th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the representative of Kenya made a statement in which he introduced, on behalf of Kenya and Uganda, a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.99) entitled "Energy resources", the text of which read as follows:

#### The Committee on Natural Resources

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### "The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Taking into account the fact that the development of energy resources is a prerequisite for world economic development, particularly for the developing countries,

"Recognizing the need for improved understanding of the interconnexions between energy availability and the process of economic and social development,

"Emphasizing the importance of intensifying the capabilities of the United Nations in data collection, analysis and dissemination of information, inter alia, in the field of energy,

"1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Symposium on World Coal Prospects, held at Katowice, Poland, from 15 to 23 October 1979 14/ and on trends and issues with regard to energy, 15/ and urges an early implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, taking into account the views and proposals for their revision expressed by Governments at the seventh session of the Committee on Natural Resources;

"2. Takes note also of the note by the Secretary-General entitled 'Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989: Natural Resources Programme and Energy Programme', 16/ and recommends that the question of the pricing level should be included in subprogramme 1 of the Energy Programme contained therein, both in the title and in the objective set forth in paragraph 89;

"3. Declares the need:

"(a) To concentrate on the energy balance and world development the evolution of the global energy supply and demand, and the means to increase energy development;

"(b) To give maximum assistance to developing countries, necessary in their endeavours to establish priorities in the field of energy;

"(c) To identify constraints in the development of sources of energy, including constraints encountered in such fields as financing, both bilateral and multilateral; information flows; education and training; research and development; and technology transfer;

"(d) To establish mechanisms for co-ordination of activities at the national, regional and global levels, as well as implementation and reviews of policy measures in the short, medium and long term;

"4. Requests, in this regard, the Secretary-General to co-ordinate and strengthen research and the dissemination of information with regard to the world energy supply, demand and consumption situation, trends and outlook, drawing upon the work carried out within and outside the United Nations;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the issue of long-term exhaustibility of non-renewable resources, particularly conventional petroleum resources, its possible implications for the world energy economy and development and the realistic options available to the international community in making a smooth transition to less depletable and more renewable sources of energy, taking into full account the results of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report

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14/ E/C.7/121 and Corr.1.

15/ E/C.7/123.

16/ E/C.7/VII/CRP.1.

to be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session, containing:

"(a) An analysis of the interconnexions between energy availability and the process of economic and social development;

"(b) An overview of the world energy situation as well as an assessment of the prospective evolution of the global energy supply, demand and pricing levels;

"(c) A review of the energy investment requirements of the developing countries and the possible and available means and mechanisms for the financing of such investment, as well as the existing gaps and the prospective means to fill those gaps, particularly in the field of energy exploration, with special reference to the situation of the developing countries, taking into account the desirable levels of increase in the ratio of energy consumption of those countries;

"(d) A review of the situation related to international co-operation in the field of energy, including the results and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and of any other international meetings and conferences to be convened on energy before the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources."

49. At the same meeting, the representatives of Chad, Venezuela, Belgium, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Nigeria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made statements, during which a number of amendments were proposed to the draft resolution.

50. At the 157th meeting, on 27 May, the Committee resumed its consideration of the draft resolution in E/C.7/L.99 and heard statements by the representatives of Argentina, Uruguay, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, during which a number of further amendments were proposed to the draft resolution.

51. At the same meeting, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of the sponsors, withdrew the draft resolution, following which statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Jamaica, Belgium, Spain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

52. At the same meeting, the Chairman suggested that the Committee might wish to consider the possibility of meeting in 1982 in a session devoted to energy questions, since the time remaining for discussion of that vital topic was so limited. A number of delegations strongly supported that suggestion, and one noted that such a meeting would provide a further opportunity to consider the medium-term-plan energy programme. However, three delegations, although stressing their support for consideration of energy questions in the Committee, opposed the idea of a meeting in 1982. A few other delegations noted that they did not have instructions from their Governments on the matter, and one raised the question of the possible financial implications of such a session.

53. The representative of the Netherlands, at the same meeting, orally proposed a draft decision for consideration by the Committee. The draft decision, which was

subsequently issued in document E/C.7/L.104 and sponsored by the delegations of Italy, Kenya and the Netherlands, read as follows:

"Energy resources

"The Committee on Natural Resources, having taken note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Symposium on World Coal Prospects 17/ and on trends and issues with regard to energy, 18/ as well as of the draft resolution contained in document E/C.7/L.99,

"(a) Decides to transmit the text of the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981 for its consideration;

"(b) Also decides to request the Council to consider the possibilities of further consideration of energy questions."

54. At the 158th meeting, on 29 May, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of Kenya and Uganda, reintroduced the draft resolution in E/C.7/L.99 and orally revised it by:

(a) Deleting the second and third preambular paragraphs;

(b) Deleting, in operative paragraph 1, the words:

"and urges an early implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, taking into account the views and proposals for their revision expressed by Governments at the seventh session of the Committee on Natural Resources";

(c) Deleting operative paragraph 2, as well as subparagraphs (a) and (d) of operative paragraph 3;

(d) In operative paragraph 4, deleting the words "supply, demand and consumption";

(e) Deleting operative paragraph 5, as well as subparagraphs (a) and (b) of operative paragraph 6; and

(f) Changing, in operative paragraph 6 (d), the word "including" to read "particularly", and deleting, in the same paragraph, the words "and of any other international meetings and conferences to be convened on energy before the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources".

55. The draft resolution, as orally revised, would therefore read as follows:

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17/ E/C.7/121.

18/ E/C.7/123.

"Energy resources

"The Committee on Natural Resources,

"Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Emphasizing the importance of intensifying the capabilities of the United Nations in data collection, analysis and dissemination of information, inter alia, in the field of energy,

"1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Symposium on World Coal Prospects, held at Katowice, Poland, from 15 to 23 October 1979 19/ and on trends and issues with regard to energy, 20/

"2. Declares the need:

"(a) To give maximum assistance to developing countries, necessary in their endeavours to establish priorities in the field of energy;

"(b) To identify constraints in the development of sources of energy, including constraints encountered in such fields as financing, both bilateral and multilateral; information flows; education and training; research and development; and technology transfer;

"3. Requests, in this regard, the Secretary-General to co-ordinate and strengthen research and the dissemination of information with regard to the world energy situation, trends and outlook, drawing upon the work carried out within and outside the United Nations;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report to be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session, containing:

"(a) A review of the energy investment requirements of the developing countries and the possible and available means and mechanisms for the financing of such investment, as well as the existing gaps and the prospective means to fill those gaps, particularly in the field of energy exploration, with special reference to the situation of the developing

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19/ E/C.7/121 and Corr.1.

20/ E/C.7/123.

countries, taking into account the desirable levels of increase in the ratio of energy consumption of those countries;

'(b) A review of the situation related to international co-operation in the field of energy, particularly the results and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

56. At the same meeting, the Committee considered draft resolution E/C.7/L.99, as orally revised, and the draft decision in E/C.7/L.104, and heard statements by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Sweden, Venezuela, Canada, Chad, the United States of America, Nigeria, India, Italy, Australia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Netherlands and France, by the Chairman, and by the Secretary of the Committee, who stated that after seeking legal advice, he had been informed that, as a general rule, a draft resolution which is reintroduced retains its original priority. On that basis it was understood that the Committee should first proceed with the consideration of draft resolution E/C.7/L.99, as orally revised.

57. At the same meeting, the representative of India, invoking rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, moved the adjournment of the meeting. The Committee adopted that motion by 36 votes to none, with one abstention, and the meeting was therefore adjourned. As a result of this adjournment, the Committee was unable to complete its consideration of this question.

## Chapter IV

### NEW TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING, FOR IDENTIFYING, EXPLORING AND ASSESSING NATURAL RESOURCES

58. The Committee considered agenda item 5 at its 150th and 151st meetings on 22 May 1981. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/116) on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources, as requested by the Committee at its sixth session. <sup>2/</sup> The report summarized recent trends and possible future developments in several techniques of major importance in the mineral and energy resource fields: remote sensing, exploration geophysics, exploration geochemistry, seismology, and exploration drilling for oil and gas. It was noted in the report that by the end of 1980, more than 110 countries had been participating in remote sensing activities and that the Division of Natural Resources and Energy, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, was one of the leading United Nations agencies assisting the developing countries in their efforts to benefit from improving remote sensing and other technologies. The transfer of such technology was an objective of a number of current exploration projects executed by the Department and financed by the United Nations Development Programme.

59. In endorsing the report of the Secretary-General, a number of representatives emphasized the importance for all countries of modern techniques for further identifying natural resources. Several representatives of both developed and developing countries drew attention to their own national programmes for remote sensing, airborne geophysics and other exploration methods, and offered their services for projects in the dissemination of information, training, and the transfer of technology. Such projects could be either sponsored by the United Nations or bilateral.

60. On the subject of training, two delegations noted the need for more widely available instruction in advanced techniques, especially as they applied to local and regional geological and climatic conditions, and suggested that regional seminars might be organized and/or temporary regional training centres established. It might be useful to compile an inventory of current and proposed training courses in that field. On the particular subject of training and co-operation in data systems for resource assessment, one delegation recommended co-operation with the Committee on Storage, Automatic Data Processing and Retrieval of Geological Data of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

61. Several delegations pointed out that orbital remote sensing was in no way a panacea for the problems of resource exploration, and welcomed attention paid to other techniques in the report of the Secretary-General. Because of the report's utility, especially for developing nations, and in view of the rapid pace of technological advance, one delegation proposed that it be brought up to date

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<sup>21/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 9A (E/1979/69/Rev.1), chap. VIII, para. 90.

before each session of the Committee, and offered its Government's assistance for that purpose.

62. The high costs associated with the sophisticated equipment required by many of the new techniques were noted by one delegation, which suggested that they might be tempered by joint acquisitions for regional use, as well as by technical assistance in the form of loans and the assignment of experts.

63. Two delegations expressed concern that the current very low costs of acquiring Landsat imagery might soon rise substantially: in reply, the representative of the United States of America stated that, although some increase reflecting higher expenses could be expected, no decision had yet been taken on future pricing.

64. Several delegations presented amplifications, clarifications and queries concerning points raised in the report, and a number of additional topics were mentioned, including exploration for coal and for water resources; marine geochemistry applied to hydrocarbon exploration, and the increasingly important and complex field of geophysical data interpretation.

65. One delegation, noting that the report had not addressed itself to the modalities of data acquisition by remote sensing, raised the question of the lack of control over access to such sensitive information on national mineral resources, and its possible effect on the prices of commodities critical to the economies of developing countries.

66. In replying to the latter comment, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources and Energy noted that the matter was currently before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; the Secretariat had been requested to submit data only on the techniques of resource assessment.

67. In response to the comments by other delegations, the Director stated that the report had dealt only with solid mineral resources and hydrocarbons, thereby excluding water, but pointed to the Division's continuing activities in that and other fields of natural resources, including training and the dissemination of remote-sensing technology and data.

#### Action by the Committee

68. At the 157th meeting, on 27 May 1981, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted under the item (E/C.7/116) (see chap. I, para. 3, decision 7/3).



## Chapter V

### WATER RESOURCES: PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

69. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at its 146th to 148th meetings, on 20 and 21 May 1981.

70. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs introduced the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Present status of water resources development: progress and prospects since the United Nations Water Conference' (E/C.7/117), and the report entitled 'Progress and prospects relative to water resources policy, planning legislation and institutional arrangements: proposals for interdisciplinary missions' (E/C.7/118). The reports, which were considered simultaneously by the Committee, had been prepared in close consultation with the organizations concerned within the United Nations system, on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire submitted to them by the Secretary-General concerning the progress they had made and the prospects for implementing the provisions of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 22/ in the following main areas: (a) policy, planning, legislation and institutional arrangements; (b) assessment of water resources; (c) the development of water resources and their use for agriculture; (d) public information, education, training and research in development; and (e) technical co-operation among developing countries in the development of water resources.

71. After summarizing the findings of the reports, the Assistant Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to the proposals for interdisciplinary missions (E/C.7/118, paras. 83-101) and suggested that the organization of interdisciplinary missions staffed by experts, selected by the various organizations of the United Nations system, would assist in the formulation of comprehensive water policies, in the setting up of legislative and administrative arrangements and in the formulation of national and basic plans and programmes. It was felt that such missions would be one way of responding to the needs of developing countries, by having the organizations of the United Nations system pool their capabilities in a concerted interdisciplinary manner.

72. Regarding co-operation in the development of shared water resources, the representative of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development informed the Committee of the results of the first Interregional Meeting of International River Basin Organizations, held at Dakar from 5 to 14 May 1981. The Meeting was attended by high-level representatives from 36 countries and 17 river-basin organizations, as well as 12 organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. A preliminary note on the results of the Meeting was made available to the Committee.

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22/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

73. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) informed the Committee of the recent establishment by FAO of the International Support Programme for Farm Water Management, as well as the establishment by FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of a Joint Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Disease Vector Control.

74. The representative of WHO informed the Committee of the activities of the national, regional and global levels in the implementation of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which had been launched by the General Assembly in November 1980 (resolution 35/18). With respect to activities at the country level, it was indicated that many developing countries had either set up plans and programmes or were in the process of doing so with the object of increasing the accessibility of clean water to underserved populations, particularly in the rural areas. The organizations concerned were making efforts to mobilize support by the international community within the framework of the Decade.

75. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reviewed the activities of his organization in assessment and education and training and drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that the greatest merit of the Mar del Plata Action Plan was its emphasis on the importance of the development of water resources development in an integrated interdisciplinary manner, permitting systematic consideration of the many management and use functions as they interrelate to each other.

76. Some representatives noted with satisfaction the contents of the two reports before the Committee, and expressed agreement with the method of analysis and with the resulting conclusions and recommendations, bearing in mind that the implementation of those recommendations requiring action by the organizations of the United Nations system would be carried out within the framework of existing financial resources and organizational structures.

77. Others expressed the view that the needs of the intergovernmental bodies would have been better served by a more quantitative analysis of the progress made by the developing countries in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. In that respect, it was suggested that, for the next review, efforts should be made, as far as possible, to include quantitative information.

78. A number of representatives noted their individual experience in the various aspects of the development and management of water resources.

79. While noting with some optimism that considerable progress had been made by Governments in the various areas covered therein, representatives expressed deep concern about the fact that most developing countries continued to encounter serious constraints, such as a lack of trained manpower, inadequate financial resources, a lack of equipment and a deficiency in institutional infrastructure. It was also felt that bilateral and multilateral co-operation in the form of technical advisory missions, the provision of fellowships, supply of equipment, and financial assistance would be helpful in overcoming the most troublesome of these constraints.

80. One of the areas on which stress was placed by the Committee was the question of education and manpower training. In that area of endeavour, while emphasizing

the need for increasing assistance in all forms, many delegations placed greater stress on the need for assistance in the form of scholarships to alleviate their manpower shortage. Citing the fact that many trained personnel under scholarships did not return to their own countries, causing a serious brain-drain problem, one representative suggested that it would be more useful to establish regional, technical training centres for which the participating countries would act as hosts, on a rotation basis. The same representative also proposed that the possibility should be explored of establishing data banks for natural resources. In the context of self-help efforts in developing countries, it was further suggested that such consideration be broadened through the establishment of regional or international information centres (data banks) on natural resources, including water resources, which would serve the needs of many countries through the use of standardized and systematic gathering, processing and dissemination methods. Some delegations, on the other hand, considered the establishment of regional and subregional water management centres to be unnecessary in view of already existing regional mechanisms.

81. Some representatives of developing countries stated that, while it took considerable time to translate the provisions of the Mar del Plata Action Plan into specific measures, they had lately succeeded in taking full advantage of these provisions in formulating their national plans, programmes and targets for water resources development and management, mainly because more concrete steps were being taken for comprehensive multidisciplinary planning within the framework of national economic development planning. They cited, for example, the establishment of specific goals and programmes for water development for the two principal uses of water - agriculture and community water supply. Specific targets for service coverage in terms of water supply and sanitation had also been established and the plans included projections of the extent of area to be brought under irrigation and to be rehabilitated through the reclamation of water-logged and poorly-drained areas. At the same time it was reported that the expansion and improvement of rain-fed agriculture was receiving appropriate consideration.

82. With regard to national water resources development planning and policy formulation, some representatives pointed out that institutional mechanisms for co-ordinating water interests at the national level had been updated and that efforts were being made to formulate water policies and appropriate legislative and administrative arrangements within the framework of integrated national development planning, bearing in mind that it was a highly complex matter for countries to implement the process fully.

83. With regard to legislation, it was suggested that Governments should intensify their efforts in the formulation and modification of legislation, taking into account, where appropriate, the applicable experiences of other countries, industrialized as well as developing.

84. One delegation noted that the contents of paragraphs 69, 70 and 77 of the report of the Secretary-General in E/C.7/118 could be regarded as encouraging the interference of international organizations in matters which were the exclusive competence of Governments.

85. In corroborating the findings in paragraphs 49-62 of the Secretary-General's report (E/C.7/118) and the results of the Interregional Meeting of International River Basin Organizations (see para. 4 above), some representatives provided

additional information on recent developments in the development of shared water resources. One delegation suggested that detailed consideration of that question should be carried out at the eighth session of the Committee. Some delegations stated that the question of shared water resource development should be studied on the basis of the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources and on a bilateral or multilateral basis, depending on the particular circumstances.

86. One representative expressed the view that low-cost methods of desalinating water should be studied, with a view to applying such technologies in developing countries, where salinity of surface and subsurface water was a major problem.

87. The Committee considered the proposal for interdisciplinary missions to be staffed by experts selected from various organizations of the United Nations system concerned to advise Governments of the developing countries, at their request, in the formulation of comprehensive water policies, setting up appropriate legislative and administrative arrangements and helping to formulate master plans. The Committee was informed that, should the proposal be endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, the organizations of the United Nations system would seek to implement it through a few pilot advisory missions organized along the lines suggested in paragraphs 98-101 of the Secretary-General's report (E/C.7/118). In the organization of such missions, the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination would work closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the regional commission concerned. In response to questions raised by several speakers, it was explained that the regional commissions would, as far as possible, play leading roles in organizing such advisory missions; that the size of the missions would be kept as small as possible within the scope of the request received; that their funding would be carried out from extrabudgetary sources, if possible within the indicative planning figures of UNDP for the country concerned; that only projects formally requested by the Government concerned would be considered for such missions; and that appropriate evaluation procedures would be built into each project so that the experience gained could be drawn on in organizing subsequent missions. With those clarifications, there was a consensus on the proposal.

88. One representative suggested that consideration should be given to the organization of a pilot project involving a number of Caribbean States in the implementation of the proposed interdisciplinary missions.

89. Some representatives also felt that the role of the UNDP resident co-ordinator should be clearly elaborated both in the implementation of the proposed missions and in the carrying out at the country level of the entire Mar del Plata Action Plan. In that respect, it was felt desirable that the Committee, during its next review, should be informed of the arrangements taken at the national level for co-operation and collaboration by the various organizations concerned.

90. Regarding the arrangements for the next review by the Committee on Natural Resources at the global level of the progress made in implementing the Action Plan, general agreement was expressed that the Committee, at its ninth session in 1985, should simultaneously review the attainment of the objectives of the entire Action Plan, including those of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. It was stated, however, that the possibility should be left open for a

limited review to be undertaken in 1983, taking into account the fact that such a review might provide a useful input to the review in 1984 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. One representative expressed the view that Governments should also report to the Committee at its eighth session in 1983 on the progress they had made in achieving the goals of the Decade.

91. Concerning the promotion of local consultancy services, one representative suggested that the Secretariat should explore the possibility of organizing ad hoc groups of experts to study the procedures and rules governing the programmes of technical assistance and UNDP grants to developing countries for planning and project preparation, with a view to ensuring the maximum possible participation of local technical and material resources. The same delegation felt that the promotion of self-reliance, resulting from the participation of local consultants, wherever possible, should be a major consideration.

#### Action by the Committee

##### Water resources development

92. At its 153rd meeting, on 26 May 1981, the Committee had before it two draft resolutions, in documents E/C.7/L.94 and E/C.7/L.95.

93. The text of the draft resolution in E/C.7/L.94, submitted under agenda item 6 by the United States of America, read as follows:

##### "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

##### "The Committee on Natural Resources,

"Recognizing the vital importance of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, recommended in paragraph 15 of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 23/

"Recalling the special one-day meeting of the General Assembly on 10 November 1980 at which the Assembly officially launched the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/31 in support of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and especially the establishment of the interagency Steering Committee for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, comprising the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the World Bank which was set up with the United Nations Development Programme as chairman, to co-ordinate United Nations system support for the Decade,

"Recalling the designation of the resident representative of the United

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23/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

Nations Development Programme as the focal point for co-operative action at the country level,

"Bearing in mind resolution 25, adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, concerning the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

"Recognizing that access to adequate supplies of clean water affects not merely health but also general development, including human productivity, crop cultivation, livestock production, small-scale industry and over-all economic growth,

"1. Calls upon Governments that have not yet done so to establish national action committees at the ministerial level and to proceed rapidly with the development of rational action plans for the Decade;

"2. Further calls upon Governments to give sufficient priority to the Decade in their over-all development plans so that adequate resources for achieving the targets set for the Decade may be made available;

"3. Urges Governments to assist and work closely with the resident representative in carrying out his responsibilities as the country-level focal point for co-operative action for the Decade;

"4. Encourages Governments to give priority to providing water and sanitation to those in rural and urban slum areas;

"5. Calls on Governments to report on the progress they have made in achieving the goals of the Decade to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session."

94. The text of the draft resolution in E/C.7/L.95, submitted under agenda items 6 and 9 by Pakistan, read as follows:

"Water resources development

"The Committee on Natural Resources,

"Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/191 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly requested the Committee on Natural Resources to review during the 1980s the progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 24/

"Taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980, in which the Assembly proclaimed

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24/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and decided to hold a mid-period review at its fortieth session,

'"Recalling its resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68 and 1979/70 of 3 August 1979, concerning the follow-up activities for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

'"Reiterating the importance of the provisions of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in promoting the accelerated development and orderly administration of water resources for the improvement of the economic and social well-being of mankind,

'"Deeply concerned that Governments of developing countries continue to be faced with serious constraints in carrying out their water development activities, including a shortage of trained manpower, inadequate financial resources, deficiencies in institutional and legal frameworks and lack of equipment,

'"Bearing in mind that the majority of Governments of developing countries have expressed the view that bilateral and multilateral co-operation, in the form of, inter alia, the provision of scholarships, financing, equipment and technical advisory services, would be helpful in overcoming the above-mentioned constraints,

'"Taking note with appreciation of the three reports prepared by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, entitled: 'Present status of water resources development: progress and prospects since the United Nations Water Conference' 25/ 'Progress and prospects relative to water resources policy, planning, legislation and institutional arrangements: proposals for interdisciplinary missions', 26/ and 'Present and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development', 27/

'"I. Water resources planning, policy formulation, legislation and institutional mechanisms for co-ordinating national interests

'"1. Re-emphasizes the importance of the provisions contained in section D of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 24/ and asks those Governments that have not done so to formulate a national water policy statement that allows for the harmonization of their water development plans within the framework of national economic development planning, and to keep under review the objectives and methods of planning;

'"2. Urges Governments to intensify their efforts in the formulation and updating of water legislation, where appropriate, taking into account the applicable experiences of other countries;

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25/ E/C.7/117.

26/ E/C.7/118.

27/ E/C.7/120.

"3. Reiterates the importance of having an effective mechanism for co-ordinating water interests at the national as well as the regional and local levels, as a means of effective and comprehensive planning for the development and management of water resources;

"4. Endorses the proposal for the organization of interdisciplinary missions, staffed by experts from the various organizations of the United Nations system, to advise Governments, inter alia, on the formulation of comprehensive water policies, the setting up of appropriate legislative and administrative arrangements and the formulation of national master plans, in response to requests from Governments and in line with the specific requirements of those Governments;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to inform Governments of developing countries, through the resident co-ordinators of the United Nations Development Programme, of the possibility of requesting the services of such advisory missions;

## "II. Assessment of water resources

"1. Urges Governments to intensify their activities in water resources assessment - which is a prerequisite for national water resources development, planning and management - to include, inter alia, the strengthening of services for the collection, processing and dissemination of water resources data, the improvement of studies on the water cycle and hydrological processes and on their interaction with human activities and the ecosystems, as well as improvements in the procedures for the areal assessment of water resources, and the development of appropriate infrastructures;

"2. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and other organizations concerned to promote unified methodologies for water resources assessment and to enhance international co-operation in this area;

## "III. Education, training and research and development

"1. Urges Governments of developing countries to increase their capabilities to provide training and research at the national level by setting up new facilities and/or increasing the capacity of existing ones in the various fields of water resources, including planning, legislation, the assessment of water resources, their development and use for different purposes, such as agriculture, municipal water supplies and industry, and the preservation of ecological systems;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to develop integrated and comprehensive approaches and programmes with regard to education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session;



'"3. Requests the regional commissions and the organizations concerned to promote the establishment and upgrading of regional and subregional water training centres, research institutes and networks and requests the Secretary-General to report on progress made in this regard to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session;

'"IV. Technical co-operation among the developing countries in water resources development

'"1. Urges Governments of developing countries to intensify co-operation in the form of technical co-operation among developing countries in such areas as information exchange, the exchange of consultant services, technical and economic co-operation projects, the establishment of joint water management centres and the standardization of services in the development of water resources;

'"2. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme and the other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with water development to play catalytic roles in promoting projects for technical co-operation among developing countries by taking specific initiatives in formulating and carrying out proposals designed to promote co-operation among developing countries;

'"V. International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

'"1. Urges Governments to take concrete steps to attain their respective targets for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/18;

'"2. Notes with satisfaction the progress being made by organizations in the United Nations system in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in particular the role of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action, in bringing about a concerted approach to these activities and calls upon the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to increase their technical co-operation with and financial support of developing countries to bring about a substantial improvement in the level of services in drinking water supply and sanitation by 1990;

'"VI. International co-operation in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

'"1. Takes note of the arrangements made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for co-operation and co-ordination at the international level;

'"2. Takes note of the guidelines agreed upon by the organizations of the United Nations system for consultation and co-ordination with regard to field project activities, 28/ and looks forward to their implementation;

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28/ E/C.7/120, para. 170.

'"3. Requests the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to undertake, on an urgent basis, the revision of procedures and rules governing the programmes of technical assistance and United Nations Development Programme grants to the developing countries for planning and project preparations, directly or where the World Bank is engaged as the executing agency, to ensure the maximum possible participation of local technical and material resources, and to place full reliance on the local resources, for example, engineering consultants and contractors wherever they are found competent to handle their task independently or in collaboration with foreign consultants and contractors; when such joint ventures are engaged in, the local and foreign consultants and contractors should be made jointly and severally responsible when the local contribution exceeds 50 per cent; the lead/principal role in all such joint ventures should be given to the major contributors, whether local or foreign; this revision in the procedures and rules is essential to improve the effectiveness of United Nations Development Programme assistance to the developing countries for enhancing their capabilities to implement the Mar del Plata Plan of Action within the shortest possible time;

'"4. Calls upon the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session to review further the over-all progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan by Governments and by the United Nations system, simultaneously with the review of the progress in the attainment of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, to be carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/191 and 35/18 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1957 B (LIX) of 25 July 1975."

95. At its 153rd and 154th meetings, on 26 and 27 May 1981, the Committee deferred the introduction and consideration of the draft resolutions in E/C.7/L.94 and E/C.7/L.95, in order to allow time for informal consultations.

96. At the 156th meeting, on 27 May, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Pakistan and the United States of America, introduced the revised draft resolution entitled "Water resources development" (E/C.7/L.95/Rev.1). The representative of the United States of America subsequently withdrew the draft resolution in E/C.7/L.94.

97. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the preamble and sections II, III, IV and V, as orally revised and amended during the discussion, as follows:

(a) In preambular paragraph 9, the words "with appreciation", after the words "Taking note", were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 1 of section III, the words "Urges Governments of developing countries" were replaced by the words "Urges Governments of Member States";

(c) In operative paragraph 2 of section V, the words "of Member States" were inserted after the words "Further calls upon Governments"; and in operative paragraph 3 of section V, the words "with satisfaction" appearing after the word "Notes" were deleted.

98. At the 157th meeting, on 27 May, the Committee adopted sections I and VI of the revised draft resolution in E/C.7/L.95/Rev.1, as orally revised and amended during the discussion, as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1 of section I, the word "Re-emphasizes" was replaced by the word "Recalls"; and in operative paragraph 5 of the same section, the words "United Nations Development Programme" were revised to read "United Nations system";

(b) In operative paragraph 3 of section VI, the word "Requests" was replaced by the words "Recommends that"; the words "special consideration should be given to making local foreign consulting firms and contractors jointly responsible" were replaced by the words "due consideration should continue to be given to making local foreign consulting firms and contractors jointly responsible"; and the words "the lead/principal role in all joint ventures" were revised to read "in appropriate situations the lead/principal role in joint ventures".

99. In reply to a question raised by the representative of the United States of America, the Secretary of the Committee stated that the draft resolution did not involve programme budget implications.

100. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution in E/C.7/L.95/Rev.1, as a whole, as orally revised and amended (see chap. I, draft resolution V).

101. Following the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Brazil.

#### Water resources

102. At the 155th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.98) entitled "Water resources".

103. At the same meeting, the representative of Chad, supported by the representative of France, proposed that, in operative paragraph 1, the words "international river organizations" should read "international river and lake organizations".

104. In reply to a question raised by a delegation, the Secretary of the Committee stated that the draft resolution did not involve programme budget implications.

105. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see chap. I, draft resolution VI).

106. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Chad made a statement.

## Chapter VI

### UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION

107. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 151st and 152nd meetings, on 22 and 25 May 1981. It had before it the report of the Working Group of Government Experts on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (E/1981/23) and the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the activities of the Fund in 1980 (DP/537).

108. The Assistant Administrator of the UNDP Bureau for Special Activities introduced the report of the Working Group. He alluded to the history of the Fund and the decision taken that, as an instrument different from others in the United Nations system, it was only reasonable for its mandate to be reviewed after a certain period, when it had acquired the necessary operational experience (Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV)). The Assistant Administrator referred to the considerations to which the attention of the Working Group had been directed, namely, the expansion of the scope of the Fund to include minerals, water and energy resources as provided in resolution 1762 (LIV) (the scope having been limited at the inception of operations to exploration for solid minerals because of financial constraints), the rate and level of repayment, the funding system and the institutional arrangements. He reviewed the main recommendations of the Group and indicated that the Administrator would recommend to the Governing Council of UNDP that it should endorse the totality of the Group's recommendations for favourable action by the Economic and Social Council. The United Nations Development Programme thought that the report represented a positive and forward-looking assessment of the Fund's potential and, as a result of the report, UNDP had cause to express new optimism about the Fund's continued growth. He concluded by informing the Committee that the Administrator was launching a considerably more forceful campaign for new and additional contributions to the Fund.

109. The Director of the Fund introduced the Administrator's report on the activities of the Fund in 1980 by recalling the important role that the Committee had played in the establishment of the Fund. He noted that the concern of the community of nations for natural resources exploration was even more relevant today than it had been when the Fund was established. Referring to the statement of the Administrator in the annual report that the Fund had come of age in 1980, he said that the Fund had reached the stage at which it was contributing effectively to the growing needs of developing countries for exploration of natural resources. He stated that the Fund could only continue with the meaningful level of operations it had attained if additional contributions were pledged and that this need would be stressed at the forthcoming sessions of the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council.

110. At the beginning of the discussion, the Chairman emphasized that the Committee had an obligation to express itself on the report of the Working Group to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the request of the Council. It was also, similarly, not precluded from expressing an opinion on the annual report.

111. In regard to the report of the Working Group, several members found it difficult to determine what action was required of the Committee. Some thought it could only take note of the report and the recommendations it contained, as no major changes were proposed in the Fund's mandate because of its limited resources; in addition, the positions of Governments were yet to be agreed on the broad spectrum of energy issues which were before the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be held later in the year, and the Governing Council of UNDP, as the governing body of the Fund, was to review the report. Nevertheless, as the work of the Fund was relevant to the work of the Committee, it should be retained as an item of its agenda. Another member, however, reiterating the statement of the Chairman, referred to the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV) according to which the annual report on Fund activities was to be submitted together with the comments of the Committee, and to those provisions relating to the review of the Fund's activities, on which the comments of the Committee and the governing body of the Fund were requested. He therefore asserted that the Committee would abrogate its responsibility if it did not submit cogent comments on the report of the Working Group to the Council and the General Assembly for their consideration.

112. While some members noted the growing interest of developing countries in using the Fund as indicated in the Administrator's annual report, others requested members representing those Governments receiving Fund assistance, those which had initiated negotiations for projects and those which were negotiating projects to relate their experience with the Fund, which, if convincing, would guide in assessing the recommendations of the Working Group.

113. Although some members supported the recommendations of the Working Group, others expressed reservations and others thought the report lacked substance, particularly in respect of the operational experience of the Fund.

114. Regarding the repayment system, one member expressed the view that the replenishment contribution should be limited to reimbursement of project costs, in constant prices; another considered that unless the rate were lowered and the terms softened the Fund would not be attractive to the developing countries. Some were in favour of a concessionary rate for the least developed countries, whereas several were not in favour of a change in the rate and level of repayment, as it would jeopardize the capability of the Fund to retain its unique character, become self-sustaining and truly "revolve" and would lead it to rely on further voluntary contributions. One member suggested that the Fund would only be of interest as an autonomous organization that could "revolve", and another suggested, that, if the revolving nature of the Fund were not retained, its activities could be included within the Indicative Planning Figures of UNDP. Another member stressed the importance of co-financing as a means of increasing the flow of financing to the Fund.

115. In respect of the expansion of the scope of the Fund, some members supported expansion into exploration for geothermal energy and petroleum and gas, some suggested prudence in the light of the financial situation of the Fund and others categorically opposed the Fund's entry into high-cost, high-risk exploration when even financing to maintain its current level of operations in exploring for solid minerals was precarious. Some considered that the Fund could expand its activities into the energy sector only if that would serve a useful purpose and no other sources of financing were available, so that it could make optimum use of its limited resources. Others pointed out that other organizations were extensively

involved in providing such assistance for mineral fuels development and that geothermal energy was a subject for consideration by the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Some members inquired what other sources of financing were available to developing countries to ensure complementarity to Fund assistance.

116. In this connexion, some members questioned the validity of the repayment formula recommended by the Working Group for geothermal exploration, as no proof was offered that the Fund would revolve with a repayment rate of 5 per cent of the fair market value of the energy produced, with a ceiling set at three times the costs to the Fund, in constant prices. The recommendation that the Fund should expand its activities in exploration for solid minerals to the feasibility stage was not accepted by some members as it was unlikely that an organization contemplating expenditure of sizable funds would be prepared to accept prior work to that end undertaken by third parties. Some delegations, moreover, thought that the report of the Working Group presented ambiguities as regards both the nature of the work to be undertaken by the Fund in geothermal energy and the meaning of the words "energy produced" whose value was to serve as a basis for reimbursement contributions. It was suggested by one member that the Fund was justified in carrying out complementary work at the conclusion of its projects but only of a preliminary nature and at modest cost. Some members expressed surprise that the Working Group had recommended that the Fund should expand its activities when such work could only be financed on the basis of considerable additional voluntary contributions. One member felt that the analysis of the Fund's experience to date by the Working Group supported the initial decision of the Governing Council of UNDP to limit the scope of the Fund to exploration for solid minerals.

117. Several members expressed concern regarding the institutional arrangements. According to the Fund's Operational Procedures and Administrative Arrangements, contained in document DP/142, the Fund would build up its own technical and managerial staff as expeditiously as possible and commensurate with its financial resources and the volume of operations. Until the Fund reached the stage of having sufficient financial resources, they emphasized that more use should be made than currently of the technical capacity in the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, which had a staff of 14 technical advisers covering the entire range of solid mineral exploration and development activities alone. They questioned whether the best use was being made of all the expertise available to the Secretary-General and doubted the advisability of the Fund creating a parallel technical capacity when its financial resources were so limited. One delegation stated its opposition with regard to the recruitment by the Revolving Fund of new technical personnel. Another member stated that sufficient staff was available within the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and UNDP to meet the needs of the Fund, and another questioned if it was necessary for the Fund to allocate about one fourth of its budget to administrative costs.

118. One member suggested that, in order to make the Fund better known and understood, informal meetings, such as those regularly convened by the Deputy Administrator of UNDP with government representatives, should be organized by the Fund. He also proposed that expert meetings to review the activities of the Fund and to make suitable recommendations, similar to the one held recently, would be useful and recommended that they should be held every two or three years. He also requested that a report should be prepared for the consideration of the Governing Council of UNDP on co-operation between the Fund and other organizations in the United Nations system, with an indication of trends.

119. The representative of Japan announced during the discussion that his Government had decided to make a contribution of \$2 million during the current fiscal year, and appealed to all Governments in a position to do so to make generous contributions in the coming years.

120. The Deputy to the Assistant Administrator, responding to some of the questions raised during the discussion, stated, in respect of the repayment formulae contained in the report of the Working Group, that these were offered tentatively and could be examined further if the Committee so decided. He also noted that the Fund had been specifically requested to build up its own staff commensurate with its resources and volume of operations. The subvention arrangements with the Division of Natural Resources and Energy remained unchanged and were the basis on which the Fund drew upon the Division's expertise. It was the intention of the Fund and UNDP to co-operate with their partners in the United Nations system, but certain functions of management were the prerogative of the Fund itself. Co-operation would continue on the basis of the growth of the Fund and its requirements for staff, and would be strengthened in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group. Arrangements for such co-operation would be worked out by the Fund's Joint Operations Group, of which the World Bank, UNDP and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development were permanent members.

#### Action by the Committee

121. At the 156th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Argentina, Botswana, Italy and Japan, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.100) entitled "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration".

122. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, para. 3, resolution 7/1).

123. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Brazil made a statement.

## Chapter VII

### PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

124. For its consideration of item 8 of its agenda, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/C.7/119). The Director of the Division of Natural Resources and Energy, introducing the report, noted that it contained information on recent developments relating to both petroleum and non-fuel minerals, in particular new developments in arrangements between the Governments of mineral-producing countries and transnational corporations. These new developments were, he said, a reflection of the changing world-wide economic situation in recent years. In addition, the Director noted that the report contained a discussion of international settlement of investment disputes and several proposals for action by the United Nations system to help countries effectively exercise sovereignty over their natural resources.

125. All delegations commenting on the question emphasized the continuing importance of this item of the Committee's agenda and urged the continuation of the preparation of periodic reports by the Secretary-General documenting developments in the field of permanent sovereignty. Several delegations noted that the issue of permanent sovereignty over natural resources was an important element in efforts to achieve a new international economic order. One delegation noted that the report (E/C.7/119) reflected a better understanding by Governments of mineral-producing countries of the possible benefits of involving private and public foreign companies in development if satisfactory agreements could be worked out. Another delegation emphasized the need for continued attention to the problem of permanent sovereignty over natural resources in territories under occupation, colonial domination or apartheid. Several delegations commented on recent changes in arrangements between transnational corporations and host countries, indicating that there was continuous change in this area. Several delegations also emphasized the need for arrangements for mineral exploration and production to be undertaken on a basis that fully reflected countries' sovereignty over their own resources.

126. Several delegations supported, in general, the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General for further action by the United Nations system, namely, for short-term expert or consultant missions, longer-term assignment of experts, development, where appropriate, of model contracts, and the provision of technical assistance in the settlement of investment disputes when requested. Concern was expressed, however, that such initiatives should not involve the creation of additional institutions within the United Nations system.

#### Action by the Committee

127. At the 157th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the Chairman introduced a draft decision (E/C.7/L.102) entitled 'Permanent sovereignty over natural resources'<sup>1</sup>.

128. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, para. 3, decision 7/2).



## Chapter VIII

### CO-ORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

129. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 148th meeting on 21 May 1981. It had before it "Present and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development: report of the Secretary-General" (E/C.7/120).

130. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination indicated that the report contained an overview of present and future activities of the United Nations system in the context of the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference, endeavouring to present to the Committee the major issues arising in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan from a system-wide point of view. It was felt that in that manner the report would respond to the mandates contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1957 B (LIX) and 1979/68.

131. After indicating that significant progress had been made in certain areas of the Action Plan, such as drinking water supply and sanitation, assessment, and water for agriculture, he noted that there were areas in which additional efforts would be required in the future - notably with respect to water resources planning and management, water for industrial use, and education and training. In the case of water for industrial use, he noted further that the Industrial Development Board was considering the establishment of a programme of work by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in that area.

132. With regard to co-ordination of activities, the Assistant Secretary-General drew attention to the guidelines agreed to by the organizations within the system for joint action in connexion with the implementation of field projects at the country level, as described in paragraph 170 of the report. He also drew attention to the arrangements for co-operation and co-ordination which had been established by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/68, as described in paragraphs 174-184; and indicated that the organizations proposed to continue such arrangements, bearing in mind the views of the Committee and of the Economic and Social Council.

133. During the discussions, several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the report and with the recommendations contained in it with regard to programme reinforcement and co-ordination arrangements. Some delegations felt, however, that the manner in which the report had been structured and the information presented did not facilitate the task of the Committee in reviewing and assessing the co-ordination of activities of the system. It was also stressed that the main co-ordination function at the intergovernmental level of that kind of activity rested with the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Natural Resources as its subsidiary body.

134. A number of delegations noted the need for further efforts by the system in several areas, as indicated in the report, such as water resources planning and

management, water for industrial use, and education and training. In addition, they indicated other areas where such an increase in efforts would be required, namely: river basin development; ground exploration and development; non-conventional sources of water; research; surface and ground-water quality control; and finally technical co-operation among developing countries. With regard to the latter point, a representative of the Secretary-General acknowledged that further efforts were required and, indeed, envisaged in that area, since it was one where the efforts of the system were still at an early stage. Of course, appropriate project requests from Governments would be required in that connexion.

135. Several delegations noted that the question of co-ordinating activities, in particular with regard to technical co-operation, had acquired particular importance in view of the stringent financial conditions being faced by all the organizations in the system. They emphasized the need to maximize co-operative action in order to eliminate waste, and noted with satisfaction the adoption of guidelines by the organizations for projects where two or more of them might be called to undertake joint action in view of their functional responsibilities. Questions were raised over the nature of overlaps in technical assistance projects and the desirability of eliminating any such overlaps. In reply, it was pointed out that many projects, particularly in the fields of planning, legislation and management, fell within the competence of several organizations, and properly so. While such overlaps sometimes created problems in determining the most appropriate executing agencies, it was for the system to find solutions to those problems rather than to require Governments to design projects which fitted neatly within the competence of a single organization. It was hoped that the guidelines would be helpful in that connexion.

136. One delegation suggested the need for revising procedures for the utilization of funds from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with regard to planning and project preparation. In particular, he felt that, given the recommendation of the United Nations Water Conference concerning the desirability of utilizing more fully consultant services available in developing countries, particular attention should be given to finding national consultants, whenever possible, rather than foreign ones. He also felt that such attention was of particular importance in connexion with UNDP projects executed by the World Bank.

137. Finally, in connexion with the co-ordination machinery instituted by ACC in the form of the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, a number of delegations noted them with satisfaction, and expressed the view that such an arrangement would provide a suitable means for the co-ordinated system-wide implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

#### Action by the Committee

138. At the 157th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the Committee adopted a draft resolution submitted under items 6 and 9 of its agenda (see chap. V, paras. 92-101).

## Chapter IX

### PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1984-1989: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY PROGRAMMES

139. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 154th meeting on 27 May 1981, and had before it for its consideration the proposed medium-term plan of the headquarters units of the Secretariat for the period 1984-1989 concerning natural resources and energy, as contained in document E/C.7/VII/CRP.1.

140. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination presented an overview of the evolution of the medium-term plan, since its inception in 1974, as a tool for outlining future courses of action in the programme concerned. He pointed out that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/224 the current medium-term plan was designed to cover a period of six years rather than the four years covered in previous plans. In addition, the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 would no longer be a rolling plan to be updated every two years but rather a plan with a fixed-term horizon, though the General Assembly would review it every two years in order to determine if any changes were necessary. He also indicated that, in contrast to previous plans, which were of a very detailed nature, the present plan was of a more general character, giving more emphasis to setting out objectives and strategies. The Assistant Secretary-General also noted that for the first time the preparation of the medium-term plan was designed to come to grips with the question of priorities within the context of the International Development Strategy, and that the following areas had been identified as requiring special emphasis: raw materials, including agricultural commodities, minerals and sea-bed resources, industrialization and trade in manufactures, science and technology for development, co-operation among developing countries, energy, least developed countries and monetary and financial issues. In this connexion, he also pointed out that it would be of special interest for the Committee that energy and minerals had been singled out as a priority area for the development of a major new programme. In addition, he indicated that the new modalities, particularly the extended period for the preparation of the medium-term plan, made it possible to use it as a tool for increased intra-secretariat and intersecretariat co-operation and co-ordination. He concluded by indicating that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/206, the Committee on Natural Resources would be called upon, as the technical body, to give views on the substance of the natural resources and energy programmes.

141. During the discussion, several delegations noted that the document had been issued in English only and at a late stage during the session of the Committee. Accordingly, they would be unable to give their views on the proposed medium-term plan. However, in view of the importance of the subject, and since the Committee was the only intergovernmental body which could make substantive comments on it, it was agreed that the Secretary-General would distribute the document to the States members of the Committee as soon as it became available in all the working languages so that they might give the document the detailed consideration it deserved. While those delegations wishing to comment on the document during the session would be free to do so, all delegations would have the opportunity to submit their written comments no later than 10 September 1981.

142. Among the delegations commenting on the document, some emphasized the importance of the medium-term plan as a means of setting priorities and allocating resources. They felt that as a whole the document contained a good statement of mandates. One representative felt, however, that the document did not give a clear presentation of plans, and that it laid too much stress on legislative mandates relative to objectives and strategies. He felt that the text made it difficult to identify overlaps and that the presentation might be improved through the use of tables. Some delegations felt that there was a lack of clarity in the presentation of the programmes of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. It was understood that the lack of clarity was due in part to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring, and delegations recommended that close consultations should be maintained by both Departments.

143. With regard to specific suggestions, one delegation suggested that subprogramme 1, dealing with minerals, should include consideration of problems related to substitution, recycling and environmental aspects of investment and development decisions; and the programme would probably need to pay close attention to peat as a result of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. A number of delegations attached high priority to the programmes on minerals, though in some cases they thought there might be an overlap between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the activities related to land-based minerals of the Ocean Economics and Technology Branch of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. With regard to sea-bed minerals, it was pointed out in reply to questions that the Ocean Economics and Technology Branch was the only office currently dealing with the question, although the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development could be called upon to execute projects in that area, at the request of Governments.

144. With regard to energy resources, one delegation felt that the proposal contained in paragraph 105 of the document, concerning selective analysis of interrelationships between energy, money, finance and other raw materials, might not have taken into account progress that might be achieved in the context of global negotiations. In connexion with paragraph 76 of document E/C.7/VII/CRP.1, where reference was made to the call in the energy section of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56) to facilitate access by developing countries to energy technologies, mention should be made of nuclear energy, in accordance with Assembly resolution 32/50.

145. In connexion with paragraph 89 of the conference room paper, concerning the analysis of current and prospective trends in global energy supply and demand, some delegations stressed that it would be necessary to take into account the interrelationship between supply, demand and prices. They felt that pricing constituted an important element in that relationship, which should be taken into account in spite of the limited role that the United Nations had been called upon to play in that area, compared to that of other organizations outside the United Nations system.

146. One delegation felt it would be useful for the Committee to recommend that an evaluation of activities in the field of energy on a system-wide basis should be undertaken for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. In that connexion, the Secretariat pointed out that, while such an evaluation

could be undertaken, a lead time of approximately two years would normally be necessary. It was also pointed out that at its twentieth session the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had considered a report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational analysis of the energy programmes of the United Nations system, and had recommended that the Economic and Social Council should undertake a review of objectives in that area. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had started work on the matter for the review by the Economic and Social Council in 1982.

147. Finally some delegations pointed out that the programme concerning surveying, mapping and international co-operation in cartography did not fall within the purview of the Committee on Natural Resources, as was implied by paragraph 38 of the medium-term plan in document E/C.7/VII/CRP.1.

#### Action by the Committee

148. At the 156th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the representative of Chad introduced a draft decision entitled "Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: natural resources and energy programmes" (E/C.7/L.101).

149. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, para. 3, decision 7/1).

## Chapter X

### UTILIZATION OF SUBSURFACE SPACE

150. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 145th and 151st meetings, on 19 and 22 May 1981. The item had been included in the agenda on the initiative of the delegation from Sweden. Though not a traditional natural resource as generally defined, it covered a number of issues related to other agenda items, in particular water resources and energy, as well as mineral resources. Considerable experience in the use of subsurface space for a variety of applications already existed in different parts of the world, though in the past the discussions had rarely included the developing countries. Technology was available to solve problems related to storage of water, energy and food, as well as urbanization, though it would not be applied unless policy makers were convinced of its merits and included it in the planning process. A small workshop was suggested, to assist with the preparation of a report on the subject. The Swedish delegate noted that, if it met with a positive response from the Committee, his delegation would be prepared to look into the possibility of arranging such a workshop in Sweden.

151. Representatives generally supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda for the eighth session of the Committee. It was time to think about subsurface space in serious terms, though further study was necessary. While the storage of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons and of chemical products was imperative, their storage on the surface presented difficulties in terms of both the environment and security. Subsurface storage was a generally economic solution which circumvented those difficulties.

152. Delegations noted that, while any avenue that would increase the availability of natural resources was welcomed, the immediate relevance of the availability of technology in that field to the developing countries was not high. In that context, efforts to investigate the usefulness of technology in developing countries could be useful. If a report was to be prepared by the Secretary-General for the next session of the Committee, it should pay particular attention to the relevance of subsurface space to the developing countries. One representative noted that it should be limited to problems of storage and not to such areas as subway constructions, tunnels and sewage systems. Another expressed the view that the study should be linked to the general mandate of the Committee.

#### Action by the Committee

153. At the 155th meeting, on 27 May 1981, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Finland, India, Jamaica, Pakistan, the Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/L.97) entitled "Utilization of subsurface space".

154. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, draft resolution VI).

155. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Spain made a statement.

## Chapter XI

### CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

156. The Committee considered agenda item 12, entitled "Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee" at its 158th meeting, on 29 May 1981. For its consideration, it had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a list of agenda items, together with the documentation under the items (E/C.7/L.103).

157. The attention of the Committee was drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 in which the Council had decided that restraint should be exercised both in the Council and in its subsidiary bodies in making new requests for documents and that recurrent documents should be requested only when the nature of the subject made that indispensable. The Committee's attention was also drawn to Council decision 1979/81, in which the Council decided that regular sessions of standing committees of the Council should normally have a duration of not more than eight working days.

#### Action by the Committee

158. At the 158th meeting, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision in which it would take note of the report of the Committee on its seventh session and approve the provisional agenda and documentation 29/ for the eighth session of the Committee, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I above, draft decision).

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29/ It was agreed by the Committee that in view of the need to limit requests for documentation, the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted under agenda item 10, entitled "Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources" would be restricted to an in-depth study of non-fuel minerals.

## Chapter XII

### ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

#### Opening and duration of the session

159. The Committee on Natural Resources held its seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 29 May 1981, during which it held 15 meetings (144th to 153th meeting).

160. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Onur Gökçe (Turkey).

161. The Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development made a general introductory statement.

#### Membership and attendance

162. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 A (LI), the Committee is composed of 54 States Members of the United Nations elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Four seats from the Group of Asian States remain to be filled.

163. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

164. The following States Members of the United Nations participated as observers in the session: China, Egypt, and Germany, Federal Republic of.

165. The following non-member State maintaining permanent observer mission to the United Nations was represented as observer in the session: Holy See.

166. The following regional commissions were represented: Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America, Economic Commission for Western Asia and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

167. The following United Nations organizations, bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Council, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Meteorological Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency.

168. The following non-governmental organization was represented: International Chamber of Commerce.



### Election of officers

169. At its 144th, 145th and 148th meetings, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

<u>Chairman:</u>	H.E. Sir Egerton Richardson (Jamaica)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. V. I. Filippov (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) Mr. D. C. Don Nanjira (Kenya) Mr. S. M. H. Bokhari (Pakistan)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Willy J. Stevens (Belgium)

### Agenda and documentation

170. At its 144th meeting, the Committee considered the provisional agenda for the session (E/C.7/113) and a proposal for a supplementary item, contained in a letter dated 20 April 1981 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/C.7/122). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a report on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session (E/C.7/113/Add.1).

171. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda for its seventh session, with the inclusion of an item entitled "Utilization of subsurface space"<sup>17</sup>. The agenda was circulated in document E/C.7/124 and is reproduced in annex I.

172. The documents before the Committee at its seventh session are listed in annex II.

### Chapter XIII

#### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

173. The Committee considered the draft report on its seventh session (E/C.7/L.96 and Add.1-9) at its 155th, 157th and 158th meetings, from 27 to 29 May 1981, and adopted it, as orally amended during the discussion. However, paragraphs 48-51 and 53-57 of chapter III of the report (Energy resources) were not considered nor adopted by the Committee, owing to the adjournment of the 158th meeting.

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Mineral resources:
  - (a) Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium and including problems of transfer of technology
  - (b) Availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash
4. Energy resources:
  - (a) Trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology
  - (b) Technical questions
    - (i) Natural gas: problems of associated gas utilization
    - (ii) World coal prospects
5. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources
6. Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan
7. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
8. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources
9. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources
10. Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: natural resources and energy programmes
11. Utilization of subsurface space
12. Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee
13. Adoption of the report of the Committee

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION

<u>Document</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/1981/23	7	Report of the Working Group of Government Experts on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
DP/537	7	United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration: annual report of the Administrator for 1980
E/C.7/114 and Corr.1 (English only)	3	Mineral resources: availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/115	3	Mineral resources: trends and salient issues, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium, including problems of technology transfer: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/116	5	New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/117	6	Present status of water resources development: progress and prospects since the United Nations Water Conference: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/118	6	Progress and prospects relative to water resources policy, planning, legislation and institutional arrangements: proposals for interdisciplinary missions: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/119	8	Permanent sovereignty over natural resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/120	9	Present and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/121 and Corr.1	4	United Nations Symposium on World Coal Prospects: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/122	2	Letter dated 20 April 1981 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/C.7/123	4	Trends and issues with regard to energy: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/124	2	Agenda as adopted at the 144th meeting on 18 May 1981
E/C.7/INF/11	-	List of representatives
E/C.7/L.90	3 (a)	Ghana, Jamaica, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.91	3 (a)	German Democratic Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.92	3	Turkey: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.93	3	Argentina, Chad, India and Uruguay: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.94	6	United States of America: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.95	6 and 9	Pakistan: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.95/Rev.1	6 and 9	Pakistan and United States of America: revised draft resolution
E/C.7/L.96 and Add.1-9	13	Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/L.97	11	Finland, India, Jamaica, Pakistan, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.98	6	Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
E/C.7/L.99	4	Kenya and Uganda: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.100	7	Argentina, Botswana, Italy and Japan: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.101	10	Chad: draft decision
E/C.7/L.102	8	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman
E/C.7/L.103	12	Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee

<u>Document</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/L.104	4	Italy, Kenya and Netherlands: draft resolution
E/C.7/VII/CRP.1	10	Note by the Secretary-General containing the proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: natural resources and energy