

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

(26-30 March and 24 April 1979)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1979

SUPPLEMENT No. 9



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1979

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E/1979/39 E/C.7/110

CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ISSUES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	1 - 2	1
II. FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN	3 - 69	10
A. Reports of regional meetings	11 - 18	11
B. Policy, planning and management	19 - 22	13
C. Assessment of water resources	23 - 32	14
D. International drinking water supply and sanitation decade	33 - 41	15
E. Water for agriculture	42 - 47	16
F. Industrial water use	48 - 50	17
G. Financing arrangements	51 - 56	18
H. Institutional arrangements for international co-operation	57 - 64	18
III. OTHER ISSUES STEMMING FROM THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN .	70 - 93	20
A. Shared water resources	71 - 76	20
B. Technical co-operation among developing countries in the water sector	77 - 79	21
C. Drought loss management	80 - 83	22
D. Public information, education training and research .	84 - 92	22
IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	94 - 103	24
V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE	104	25

Annexes

I. AGENDA OF THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE	26
II. LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS THIRD SPECIAL SESSION	27

Chapter I

ISSUES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A

1. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of draft resolutions I-IV below.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Institutional arrangements for international co-operation at the regional level in implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Water Conference constituting the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ on integrated water resources development and management, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977,

Recalling that the United Nations Water Conference, in its resolution VIII, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the water sector", 1/ recommended that a central role should be played by the Economic and Social Council, the Committee on Natural Resources and the regional commissions in their respective regions in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation as a follow-up to the implementation of the Action Plan,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the Assembly called upon the regional commissions to exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level,

Further recalling its resolution 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which it requested the regional commissions to strengthen and intensify their responsibilities in the water sector,

Also considering the proposals contained in the reports of the regional meetings held under the auspices of the regional commissions, 2/ particularly taking note of the steps taken in establishing intergovernmental machinery in each region with the aim of expediting implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

1/ 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.

2/ E/C.7/90-94.

1. Recommends that:

(a) In implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, the regional activities related to water resources of the specialized agencies and other organizations should continue to take into account the local needs and requirements of the various countries and regions, as requested;

(b) For this purpose, the activities of these agencies undertaken on the basis of respective regional programmes should be co-ordinated at the regional level through existing institutional mechanisms or those to be established for the purpose of strengthening their role in that area, as requested;

(c) Projects forming part of such programmes should be specific and concrete, taking due account of the characteristics of the regions involved, and should be presented for discussion through the mechanisms referred to in subparagraph (b) above, as requested;

2. Urges the regional commissions that have not already done so to take the necessary steps to establish an appropriate intergovernmental mechanism as soon as possible;

3. Recommends that the secretariats of the regional commissions should be provided with sufficient manpower and financial resources to enable them to discharge the expanded responsibilities assigned to them by the United Nations Water Conference in relation to execution of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including servicing of their respective bodies dealing with water and that, should these activities demand additional resources, consideration should be given, inter alia, to the redeployment of existing resources;

4. Recommends further that, where additional resources are required for implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level, the commissions should actively explore funding from the regional resources of the United Nations Development Programme to encourage activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries;

5. Invites Governments of Member States to provide substantive technical and logistic inputs to the work programmes of the bodies dealing with water in the respective regional commissions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II 3/

International Drinking Water Supply and
Sanitation Decade

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the gravity of the problem of drinking water supply and sanitation and the crisis that mankind may have to face unless timely action is taken,

3/ This draft resolution was before the Council at its first regular session of 1979 (see the decision in section B below); it was adopted, after being orally amended, at the 14th meeting, on 9 May 1979, as resolution 1979/31.

Recognizing that the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ adopted by the United Nations Water Conference includes, inter alia, the launching of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade recommended in paragraph 15 of the Action plan,

Taking note of the progress report on drinking water supply and sanitation, 4/ prepared by the World Health Organization in co-operation with other international organizations, and the reports of the regional meetings held under the auspices of the regional commissions 2/ and the proposals contained therein,

Noting the great differences among the needs of countries and the importance of realism and flexibility in identifying national targets within the framework of the Decade,

Noting also that in the development of programmes for the Decade it will be necessary to bear in mind the relationship between drinking water supply and sanitation and the development of water resources for other uses and that rural water supply and sanitation form an integrated part of primary health care programmes,

Bearing in mind the relationship between drinking water supply and sanitation and rural development and the improvement of the quality of life among the urban and rural poor,

Considering the importance of appropriate technology and the participation of the local population in the development of the community water supply and sanitation facilities, and the need for manpower for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of those facilities, as well as the need for the exchange of experiences in the above-mentioned fields and for technical co-operation among developing countries,

Taking note of the preparations for the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade undertaken by the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy established under General Assembly resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979,

1. Recommends that, during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a one-day high-level meeting should be held at United Nations Headquarters to launch formally the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the above-mentioned meeting a comprehensive report on the basis of information supplied by Governments, covering whenever possible the following:

(a) Data on countries' status in the field of drinking water supply and sanitation, to comprise a general baseline against which to measure progress during the Decade;

(b) Targets to be achieved by 1990 that are realistic, taking into account national and international constraints;

4/ E/C.7/80 and Add.1.

(c) The programmes planned to achieve these national targets, including information on the amount of national and external resources needed for the development, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of drinking water supply and sanitation facilities;

(d) Plans for information programmes to educate the general public on essential basic hygiene;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, with the assistance of the interagency Steering Committee for drinking water supply and sanitation and other appropriate United Nations bodies, such guidance as may be requested by Governments in the preparation of national reports for the high-level meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above, to receive and process those reports in time for them to be issued before the meeting, and to be responsible for the interagency overview of the implementation of the goals of the Decade;

4. Recommends that donors of bilateral assistance and organizations providing multilateral assistance should present in time for the high-level meeting reports presenting their plans and possibilities for supporting countries in the implementation of the goals of the Decade;

5. Recommends that resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with and with the consent of the Governments concerned, should serve as the focal point for co-ordinating the external technical support for the Decade at the country level in conformity with paragraph 34 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977;

6. Recommends that regional commissions should support countries in their activities and present regional reviews of preparatory activities;

7. Recommends that the Committee on Natural Resources should review the progress made in implementing the goals of the Decade at its meetings during the 1980s;

8. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy should take fully into account in its deliberations the preparatory work undertaken for launching the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, bearing in mind that the Mar del Plata Action Plan was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Institutional arrangements for international co-operation
in implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2115 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which it called upon the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Environment Co-ordination Board to develop in greater detail the administrative and financial aspects of the proposals contained in their report on current and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development, 5/

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on institutional arrangements for international co-operation for water development; 6/

2. Emphasizes the need for the continuing systematic co-ordination of the water-related activities being carried out by organizations of the United Nations system;

3. Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, taking into account the matters raised and discussed during the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources, to recast the draft terms of reference of the proposed Interagency Water Resources Board set out in its report 7/ and to resubmit the question to the Committee at its seventh session in 1981;

4. Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the organizations undertaking water-related activities to intensify meanwhile their existing arrangements for interorganizational co-ordination and co-operation in this programme area and, as a matter of urgency, to elaborate procedures by which the organizations could provide essential support for the periodic intergovernmental review of the Mar del Plata Action Plan; 1/

5. Recommends that the necessary co-ordination in this field should be carried out within the existing resources of the United Nations Secretariat and that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should discuss interagency co-ordination as required;

6. Requests the external organizations carrying out activities at the country level to ensure that these activities shall be fully co-ordinated under the leadership of the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme in consultation with and with the consent of the Governments concerned, in conformity with paragraph 34 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977.

5/ E/CONF.70/CBP/4 and Add.1 and 2.

6/ E/C.7/84.

7/ Ibid., paras. 33-41.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mar del Plata
Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ adopted by the United Nations Water Conference contains recommendations and resolutions dealing with a wide spectrum of subject areas and activities relating to water, including assessment, use and efficiency, environment and health, policy, planning and management, education, training and research, the management of natural hazards, and regional and international co-operation,

Recalling that the Action Plan was approved by the Council in its resolutions 2115 (LXIII) and 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977 and that further recommendations were made by the Council and the Assembly concerning the follow-up to and implementation of the Action Plan, including the desirability of designating national water committees for this purpose,

Taking note of the following reports and the proposals contained therein: the report on the assessment of water resources prepared jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 8/ the note by the Secretary-General on water policy, planning and management, 9/ the progress report on drinking water supply and sanitation prepared by the World Health Organization in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, 4/ the progress report on water resources development and management in agriculture prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 10/ the preliminary study on industrial water use prepared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 11/ the report of the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for international co-operation in the development of water resources, 12/ the note by the Secretary-General on activities in the field of shared water resources, 13/ the report of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development, 14/ the note by the Secretary-General on drought loss management, 15/ the report on public information, education, training and research prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

8/ E/C.7/78.

9/ E/C.7/79.

10/ E/C.7/81.

11/ Document circulated in the conference room without a symbol.

12/ E/C.7/83.

13/ E/C.7/85.

14/ E/C.7/86.

15/ E/C.7/87.

Organization, 16/ the progress report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the United Nations Water Conference, 17/ and the reports of the regional meetings convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Western Asia, 2/

I

POLICY, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

1. Urges Governments:

(a) To carry out, in as systematic and co-ordinated a manner as possible, the recommendations contained in section D of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ concerning national water policy, institutional arrangements, legislation, public participation and development of appropriate technology;

(b) To exchange experiences and views on their existing and proposed institutional arrangements relating to national water planning and development;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1980, in order to ensure the exchange of information referred to in paragraph 45 (vi) of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and paragraph 25 of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the United Nations Water Conference; 17/

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the recommendations on policy, planning and management contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan shall receive the necessary attention and support within the framework of technical co-operation activities in this area, and that related supporting activities on desirable national and local institutional arrangements shall be pursued;

II

ASSESSMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1. Urges Governments to develop and/or intensify national activities in the assessment of water resources, with particular emphasis on data collection and processing methods for the evaluation of hydrological parameters under specific conditions, in particular in developing countries;

2. Decides:

(a) To endorse the strategy presented in the report on the assessment of water resources 8/ for the implementation of resolution I of the United Nations Water Conference 1/ at the regional and international levels in order

16/ E/C.7/88.

17/ E/C.7/89.

to assist developing countries in maintaining and strengthening adequate programmes for the assessment of their water resources;

(b) To request the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, in co-operation with the regional commissions and other United Nations organizations concerned, to carry out an international project along the lines indicated in their report on the assessment of water resources with a focus on the national level, designed to provide guidance and practical aid to countries that require assistance in implementing their national plans for water resources assessment;

III

AGRICULTURAL WATER USE

1. Urges Governments:

(a) To formulate measures to establish a reporting mechanism for their agricultural water development programmes in accordance with the Action Programme on Water for Agriculture adopted by the United Nations Water Conference in its resolution III; 1/

(b) To report on a regular basis to the appropriate intergovernmental bodies at the regional and global level on their existing and proposed training and research facilities to serve the needs of current and planned programmes for irrigation, drainage and land and water conservation for agriculture;

2. Requests the appropriate organizations to intensify the execution of the programme of work, and of studies and training programmes on soil-water-plant relationships and irrigation methods and techniques, as well as studies on the institutional and economic obstacles to the increase of the production and productivity of irrigated agriculture;

IV

INDUSTRIAL WATER USE

1. Urges Governments:

(a) To intensify their efforts to economize on water consumption in the industrial sector and to reduce to the maximum extent possible the level of pollution caused by waste waters at the source through the development and application of appropriate technologies for this purpose;

(b) To establish suitable mechanisms for a systematic exchange of experience and the transfer of technological know-how from developed to developing countries, as well as within the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Recommends to the Industrial Development Board to examine detailed proposals on industrial water use and treatment practices made by

the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the light of the recommendations in paragraph 27 of the Mar del Plata Action Plan; 1/

V

FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Urges Governments to formulate a steady flow of properly studied project proposals on different aspects of water resources development and management and to ensure that such projects shall be kept under review both in terms of feasibility and the ranking of priorities at the national level;

VI

SHARED WATER RESOURCES

1. Takes note of the views expressed during the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources, so that they can be taken into account by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in the follow-up to its resolution 33/87 of 15 December 1978, bearing in mind the importance attached by the Governments concerned to the matter of shared water resources;

2. Welcomes the financial support to be provided by the United Nations Development Programme to the meeting of representatives of international river and lake organizations and representatives of interested Governments, which the Secretary-General has planned for 1980;

3. Invites participating organizations and Governments to provide active support in the preparatory process to ensure the full success of the meeting;

VII

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN WATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Calls upon Governments to intensify technical co-operation among developing countries in water-related activities and in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

VIII

DROUGHT LOSS MANAGEMENT

1. Recalls the recommendations in section E, paragraphs 66-69, of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ and in the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 18/

2. Invites recipient and donor countries to work together to formulate and implement suitable projects designed to mitigate drought losses and also

18/ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

to combat desertification, taking into special account the need to strengthen the technical capacity of affected countries through the development of appropriate training and educational programmes;

IX

PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

1. Stresses the importance of activities in the fields of public information, education, training and research referred to in section F of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 1/ which are a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan as a whole;

2. Urges all Member States to strengthen their programmes in the above-mentioned fields, taking into account their specific needs, and to encourage the exchange of information on such programmes;

3. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and all other organizations of the United Nations system to accord the highest priority within their specific water resources programmes to activities in the field of public information, training and research, with the aim of increasing the capacity of Member States to cope with current and future water problems confronting their economic and social development.

B

2. The Committee also brings to the attention of the Council the following decision. 19/

The Committee on Natural Resources

Decides to request the Economic and Social Council to consider at its first regular session of 1979 the draft resolution entitled "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade" 20/ so as to enable the World Health Assembly at its forthcoming session to take the resolution into account when dealing with the matter of drinking water supply and health sanitation.

Chapter II

FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

3. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 120th to 125th, 127th and 128th meetings, from 26 to 30 March and on 24 April 1979.

19/ The decision was brought to the attention of the Council at its first regular session of 1979 (see E/1979/63).

20/ See draft resolution II in section A above.

4. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, recalled that the third special session of the Committee represented an important step in the follow-up to and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

5. Among the various issues touched on, he reminded the Committee that it would be called upon to make recommendations with respect to the proposed intergovernmental review in 1980 for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade - to be launched in 1981 - and to decide on other possible agenda items for the proposed meeting.

6. In connexion with the assessment of water resources he mentioned that the United Nations Water Conference had recommended the establishment of a reliable data system to include the functions of systematic collection, processing, storage and dissemination of data in agreed formats and at specified intervals of time. The Committee had before it a proposal for an international programme designed to facilitate the achievement of these goals.

7. Regarding water for agriculture, he recalled that the Conference had adopted a detailed action programme calling for increased production and productivity through intensive and extensive irrigation and rain-fed cultivation. Particular emphasis was given to a phased action programme in that respect, and to the need for a review in two years' time of the assessment of needs and capabilities for manpower training and research.

8. In the area of water for industrial use, given the overriding importance of accelerated industrial development for the developing countries, he suggested that the Committee might consider how activities in that area could best be strengthened within the United Nations system.

9. The Assistant Secretary-General, in recalling that the subitem dealing with institutional arrangements covered activities at both the global and the regional level, emphasized the importance of having the Economic and Social Council, the Committee, and the regional commissions effectively play a central role in that respect. He stressed the important functions that would be assigned to the proposed Interagency Water Resources Board and accompanying supporting staff as a basis for more effective co-operation among United Nations organizations, and to facilitate a monitoring at the regional level of the follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan. He also recalled that the capabilities of many of the regional commissions have been far too limited, and that a great deal would need to be done if they were to carry out fully and effectively the important tasks entrusted to them under the Action Plan.

10. With regard to the next session of the Committee in 1980, at which it would launch the Water International Drinking Supply and Sanitation Decade, he recalled that, in the summary of main proposals and recommendations of the Secretary-General's progress report (E/C.7/89), it was suggested that at that session the Committee could usefully take up a few additional selected items.

A. Reports of regional meetings

11. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) indicated that ECE was giving careful consideration to relevant provisions of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and, with the assistance of its Committee on Water Problems, was

taking steps for the implementation of the Action Plan at the regional level. At its thirty-third session the Commission adopted decision E (XXXIII) on the ECE follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference (E/C.7/93, annex I). In pursuance of that decision the Committee on Water Problems had, inter alia, proceeded to the in-depth revision of its programme of work for 1979-1983.

12. As a follow-up to the Conference, the Committee on Water Problems decided to complete and update the ECE declaration of policy on water pollution control adopted by the Commission in 1966. A seminar on rational utilization of water would be held at Leipzig from 17 to 22 September 1979. Another meeting would concentrate on economic instruments for rational utilization of water resources (Netherlands, 13-18 October 1980).

13. In the light of Conference resolution VII and pursuant to operative paragraph 4 of Commission decision E (XXXIII), a meeting of international river commissions would be convened in 1980 under the auspices of the Committee on Water Problems. At its tenth session the Committee entrusted to the Group of Experts on Aspects of Water Quality and Quantity, to meet in May 1979, the preparation of concrete proposals in that respect.

14. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) referred to the African regional meeting, which was convened from 2 to 6 October 1978, and which brought out the fact that only 2 per cent of the water resources of Africa were currently being used. He further recalled that despite the major water projects being undertaken, hardly a dent had been made in developing the available resources for productive use. Thus the problem facing Africa was one of gross under-utilization, necessitating big financial commitments in order to meet the targets set up by the Water Conference. The regional meeting had also stressed the importance of fostering and developing subregional and regional co-operation in the field of shared water resources, the establishment and strengthening of training and educational facilities, the need for sufficient hydrological and meteorological networks, the launching of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the surveying of land and water resources for irrigation, the strengthening of the water resources unit at ECA, the establishment of the intergovernmental committee on water and the constitution of an Interagency Water Resources Board functioning in a decentralized manner through regional interagency boards.

15. In the hope that its Water Resources Unit would be strengthened, ECA had programmed for the biennium 1980-1981 projects related to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan including: a meeting on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in October 1979; a meeting of river basin commissions in December 1979; a land and water resources survey for irrigation; the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on water by the ECA Conference of Ministers, projects on combating droughts and desertification; the establishment of a multipurpose institute for water resources in West Africa and the planning and development of hydrometeorological networks.

16. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) recalled that at the time of the Water Conference there had been no intergovernmental machinery within ECLA specifically addressing water development and management questions. Accordingly, in response to Conference resolution VII (d) (iii), the intergovernmental meeting on implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, held at Santiago in October 1978, had adopted eight resolutions covering the institutional arrangements both at the level of the

Commission and at that of the secretariat. He mentioned that it was recommended at the meeting that a Sessional Committee on Water should be established within the Commission, with a first meeting to be held concurrently with the session of the Commission scheduled for April 1979. The secretariat was also instructed to set up a permanent Water Unit to service the Sessional Committee and to prepare a report for its April 1979 meeting as a basis for decisions on work programme and organizational and financial requirements. It was expected that that Committee would play a central role in the review of programmes of the United Nations system and other international agencies and promotion of horizontal co-operation and direct action in training, research and information. It was also expected that the necessary commitments by member Governments and international agencies on collaboration, information and finances would be made at the forthcoming April session of the Commission.

17. The representative of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) indicated that as a follow-up to and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, ECWA held its second regional water meeting at Riyadh from 30 December 1978 to 3 January 1979. The meeting had adopted several recommendations and one resolution in which it decided that an ad hoc intergovernmental committee composed of five member countries should study the possibility of establishing a regional water resources council. The meeting also recommended that ECWA should intensify its work in the water field by constituting a team of experts under the auspices of ECWA to provide member Governments with technical services as needed. In order to comply with that recommendation, the ECWA representative invited the Committee to recommend appropriate measures to strengthen the water resources unit of ECWA in terms of manpower and financial resources.

18. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) explained that the efforts of ESCAP comprised two areas. The first was the implementation of items of the Action Plan selected by its member Governments to comprise part of the programme of work on water, while the second pertained to the development and strengthening of its co-operation with the specialized agencies with interest in water at the regional level through the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific. He stressed that the extent to which ESCAP would be able to discharge its responsibilities in the implementation of the Action Plan depended upon the adequacy of resources and the level of co-operation extended by its member Governments as well as by the specialized agencies.

B. Policy, planning and management

19. The Technical Secretary of the Committee, in introducing subitem 3 (b), recalled that one of the principal objectives of the United Nations Water Conference was to impress on Governments the need for a co-ordinated and unified approach to water resources planning and management. That was also relevant for the necessary financing which should flow into the water sector for programme and project implementation. It would be desirable for that purpose to have a suitable reporting mechanism at the regional and global levels which would make it possible to monitor national progress in the area. One delegation stressed the importance of centralized water administration and concentrated water planning and management which would make it possible to consider together the use of water and the environmental aspects. The same delegation also emphasized the importance of public participation in influencing decision-making on water questions.

20. One delegation stressed that a comprehensive national policy on the use, management and conservation of water was an essential prerequisite for successful action in the economic and social development of developing countries.

21. Most delegations supported the principle of co-ordination at the national level of the various water-related activities carried out, citing numerous examples of various modes of planning and management. The importance of linking water planning to general economic planning activities of Governments was stressed.

22. Some delegations expressed support for the proposal contained in the note by the Secretary-General (E/C.7/79), to have an exchange of views and information on existing and proposed institutional arrangements relating to national water planning and management.

C. Assessment of water resources

23. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), speaking also on behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), introduced the joint report of the two organizations on the assessment of water resources (E/C.7/78). Recalling resolution I of the United Nations Water Conference and the relevant recommendations contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan, he described the strategy proposed in the above document for implementing those recommendations and referred to the prominent role therein of the intergovernmental programmes conducted by WMO and UNESCO, the Operational Hydrology Programme and the International Hydrological Programme, respectively. Within that strategy it was proposed that an international project - consisting of the elaboration of methodologies for particular conditions and a framework for pilot studies in individual countries and technical assistance projects - should be undertaken in order to increase the capacity for assessment of water resources for those countries in need of external assistance. He indicated that the project could be executed jointly by UNESCO and WMO in co-operation with other interested United Nations agencies, the regional commissions in particular.

24. Most delegations agreed that an adequate assessment of water resources should be considered a prerequisite for their rational development and management. Most of them expressed support for the strategy outlined in document E/C.7/78. Some delegations indicated that the assessment of water resources should not be confined to average conditions but should also take into account the natural fluctuations and the influence of anthropogenic factors.

25. Some delegations, while expressing general satisfaction with the proposed international project on water resources assessment made additional proposals concerning some of its aspects.

26. Several representatives referred to the relevance of the hydrological operational multipurpose system within the Operational Hydrology Programme of WMO for water resources assessment and considered that the international project should also include such aspects as criteria for network design, data processing and hydrological forecasting.

27. A few delegations considered that the project should put stress on the adequate use of existing methodologies and on the streamlining of the technical assistance required rather than on the development of new studies.

28. Satisfaction was expressed for the ongoing programmes of UNESCO and WMO and for the excellent co-operation between the two organizations.

29. One delegation emphasized the need for a pragmatic approach to water resources assessment based on procedures for ensuring a rapid evaluation of resources in accordance with the most urgent needs of economic development.

30. Another delegation underlined the importance of hydrological research in streamlining the successive stages of the international project and referred to the particular role of the International Hydrological Programme conducted by UNESCO.

31. Another delegation referred to water resources assessment activities within sectoral programmes of other specialized agencies and emphasized the need for the active participation of those agencies in the international project.

32. Two delegations referred to the possible loss in efficiency in the collection and use of hydrological information stemming from political differences between neighbouring countries.

D. International drinking water supply and sanitation decade

33. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), in introducing the progress report on drinking water supply and sanitation (E/C.7/80), observed that since the preparation of the document there had been a number of additional developments:

(a) The rapid assessment referred to in the report had now been completed for more than 100 countries;

(b) The co-operative action by the seven organizations (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) had focused at the country level where UNDP resident representatives had been given a leadership role in co-ordinating the efforts of the organizations in the United Nations system;

(c) Bilateral and multilateral financing organizations gave their support to that co-operative action at the Consultative Meeting held at Geneva on 17 November 1978 and agreed to instruct their country level representatives to co-ordinate with the UNDP resident representative;

(d) Most countries had yet to define their targets and plans for the Decade, the success of which would require a substantial effort, reorientation of staff and more consideration given to sociological and economic aspects.

34. General support was given by delegations to the strategy for the Decade outlined in the report, and support was expressed for the leadership role assigned to the UNDP resident representatives at the country level. Well co-ordinated action at the country level, it was stressed, would attract additional resources required for the Decade.

35. It was suggested that the Steering Committee for the Co-operative Action should be given responsibility for co-ordination of activities for the Decade and guidance of the intergovernmental meetings to be held during the Decade.

36. Some delegations pointed out that although considerable progress had been made in the preparatory work, major efforts are still required by countries to develop targets and plans for the Decade; and that strategies had to be devised for co-operation in that area by the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and by bilateral agencies.

37. Several delegations drew attention to the importance of including build-up of maintenance capability, appropriate manpower development, community involvement and development and transfer of appropriate technology in the strategy for the Decade and the need to pay more attention to improved sanitation and health education if expected health benefits were to materialize.

38. Some major bilateral donors informed the Committee that they had developed strategies for co-operation in the water sector in general on the basis of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and for the drinking water supply and sanitation aspect in particular.

39. Two delegations pointed out that their bilateral aid agencies had taken active steps to support Governments through the co-operative action; they were already involved in financing projects aimed at preparation of plans and projects for the Decade in more than 30 countries. Another delegation explained that its country was providing financial support to the development of an information and clearing-house mechanism through the International Centre at The Hague in co-operation with WHO.

40. Some delegations urged that the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade should be taken into account in the strategy for the third United Nations development decade to bring a linkage with the development of other sectors, particularly rural development, stressing the absolute desirability of taking an integrated approach to the rural development effort.

41. One delegation proposed that the 1980 intergovernmental review of plans for the Decade should be undertaken at a fourth special session of the Committee on Natural Resources, at which time the Decade would be officially launched. Another delegation did not feel that it was necessary to have a special session of the Committee for that purpose and that the regular intergovernmental machinery could be utilized.

E. Water for agriculture

42. For its consideration of subitem 3 (e), the Committee had before it a progress report prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (E/C.7/81), the progress report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/89) and a supplementary paper updating the FAO report. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in his introduction gave an illustrative presentation of reporting mechanisms for quantifying such progress. Brief descriptions were given of some regional and international activities and of major themes currently receiving attention from FAO. Among them were research and training for water management in agriculture; investment planning for irrigation and drainage; rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation schemes; and improved on-farm water

management. It was noted that the last two items would receive special consideration by the FAO Committee on Agriculture in April 1979.

43. A number of delegations supported the call for an appropriate mechanism to assess and report progress in national water developments. There was agreement on the importance of agricultural water use within over-all national water plans with regard both to the large quantity of water involved and the high investment needs of that sector. It was accordingly considered that planning and policy guidelines were needed to assist in selecting projects which would make the best use of limited natural and financial resources.

44. In connexion with the rehabilitation and improvement of existing systems, some countries had already formulated and put into operation technical and economic criteria for those activities.

45. Many delegations emphasized the need to overcome social and manpower constraints, including shortage of managerial staff. Improved efficiency in irrigation practices was called for, and especially better on-farm water management. The importance of suitable training facilities was stressed by a number of speakers, some of whom gave details of national institutes which had been established for training in the areas of irrigation and agriculture. Reference was made to the high returns on investment in training.

46. Greater attention for providing opportunities for small-scale irrigation development, where appropriate, through measures such as ground water pumping, small-scale storage and water harvesting, was called for.

47. As a move towards the integration of various forms of water development, one delegation proposed that a closer look should be given at possibilities for conjunctive development of community water supply, together with irrigation schemes.

F. Industrial water use

48. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) outlined the programme which his organization had initiated on industrial water use and treatment practices in the pulp and paper and iron and steel sectors for setting acceptable quantity and quality standards and norms; it would also provide guidance on the adoption of low-water-use technologies.

49. A number of delegations felt that industrial water use was an important issue, the study of which should be pursued and intensified. Moreover, the innovative use of new technologies could save water and be economically advantageous.

50. One delegation pointed out that the economic recession of recent years had considerably affected the measures taken in the 1960s and early 1970s to protect and preserve water from the ill-effects of industrial use, and that particular vigilance was now needed by both national and international bodies so that the achievements of the last 10-15 years would not be undone.

G. Financing arrangements

51. The Technical Secretary of the Committee introduced the report of the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for international co-operation in the development of water resources (E/C.7/83).

52. Various delegations expressed appreciation for the scope and conclusions of the document, which was deemed to be a useful point of departure for the matter under review.

53. A few delegations made reference to the level of external assistance provided by their countries in the water sector.

54. A few delegations highlighted the relevance of identifying bottle-necks to the preparation of suitable projects in sufficient numbers for financing, while others referred to the importance of ranking projects selected for priority attention.

55. One delegation suggested that the information contained in the report would be of interest for the steps to be taken in the implementation of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

56. One delegation suggested that the relevant issue was that of identifying good projects and of making the best use of the resources already available within the United Nations system.

H. Institutional arrangements for international co-operation

57. The Committee had before it under subitem 3 (h) the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) (E/C.7/84) and the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications of the proposals contained in that report (E/C.7/84/Add.1 and Corr.1).

58. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stated that in its report ACC had endeavoured to spell out in greater detail as the Economic and Social Council had requested in its resolution 2115 (LXIII), the administrative and financial implications of the proposals contained in the report it had prepared for the United Nations Water Conference on current and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development. ^{21/} He elaborated on the four functions on which there needed to be interorganizational co-operation and which formed the terms of reference of the proposed Interagency Water Resources Board. He added that the 18 organizations with water-related activities all subscribed to the ACC proposals, in particular to the creation of a Board supported by a four-member staff, financed mainly on an interorganizational basis, which would prepare for the Board's sessions and follow up on its decisions.

59. With regard to activities at the regional level, he stressed the importance of the interrelationships of activities being carried out at the regional and global levels and stated that the processes of prior consultation and programme planning would be utilized in future to improve the co-ordination and common

^{21/} E/CONF.70/CBP/4 and Add.1 and 2.

thrust of those two sets of activities. He also referred to resolution VIII of the United Nations Water Conference which had indicated that it would not be realistic to expect the regional commissions to play the major role assigned to them under the Mar del Plata Action Plan without a certain minimum of staff and resources.

60. A number of delegations raised questions with regard to the ACC proposals for the creation of an Interagency Water Resources Board and its staffing. It was suggested that the Board's mandate would be too sweeping and therefore it would not be able, in reality, to achieve its goals. It was also mentioned that its terms of reference were cast in too general terms and should be sharpened. Queries were also made about the relationships that would exist between the Board and the various intergovernmental bodies such as the Council and the Committee on Natural Resources, particularly whether the Board's work would be sufficiently geared to intergovernmental policies and requirements. The possibility was also raised that some existing machinery such as the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions of ACC might be able to carry out the work to be entrusted to the Board. In that connexion, some speakers suggested that the proposals for the Board might be kept in abeyance for two years, while others urged that they should be dealt with in the near future.

61. One delegation was unable to support the creation of the Board because it felt that the Board would not be able to achieve the goals set for it and pointed out that the financing envisaged for it, shared among all the organizations, was too complicated for such a relatively small sum. It considered that the proposal for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade was the major recommendation of the Mar del Plata Conference, and that the Steering Committee for the Decade was the only piece of interagency machinery actually required in the water sector.

62. There was widespread support for strengthening water-related activities at the regional level, particularly those being carried out by the regional commissions. It was stressed that water questions by their very nature were localized problems, the solution of which in most cases needed specific national and regional action, and that therefore the emphasis even in the efforts of the United Nations system should be on the regional aspect. On the other hand, the view was expressed that there would not need to be any large-scale expansion of resources for that purpose.

63. In his reply the Assistant Secretary-General explained that the Board and its staff would operate in the four areas embodied in the draft terms of reference. He also explained that the Board would report to the Economic and Social Council through ACC and would implement policies and requests for action adopted by the Council; it would also work in close co-operation with the Committee on Natural Resources and would probably become a vital link in preparing for its sessions. Finally, he stated that the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions met for only one week two or three times a year and was hardly able to cope with its present agenda.

64. Some delegations expressed concern with regard to the financial implications, particularly that there might be rapid increases in staff levels in years to come; however, it was noted that in the several other areas where there were similar units financed on an interagency basis connected with ACC subsidiary bodies, that had not been the case. The possibility of using existing staff to serve the Board was thus suggested in order to eliminate any additional costs.

Action by the Committee

65. At its 127th meeting, on 30 March 1979, the Committee considered a revised draft resolution, entitled "Decade for drinking water supply and sanitation" (E/C.7/L.75/Rev.1), sponsored by Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden. The Chairman orally introduced the amendments proposed by various representatives during the informal consultations on the draft resolution. The Committee adopted the revised draft resolution, as amended, without a vote (see chap. I above, draft resolution II). After the adoption of the draft resolution the representative of the USSR made a statement.

66. At the same meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "Institutional arrangements for international co-operation at the regional level in implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan", (E/C.7/L.76) sponsored by Argentina. The Chairman orally introduced the amendments proposed by various representatives during the informal consultations on the draft resolution. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as amended, without a vote (see chap. I above, draft resolution I). After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the USSR made a statement.

67. At its 128th meeting, on 24 April 1979, the Committee considered a revised draft resolution proposed by the Chairman, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan" (E/C.7/L.77/Rev.1). In introducing the draft resolution the Chairman orally revised it further. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see chap. I above, draft resolution III).

68. At the same meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution proposed by the Chairman entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan" (E/C.7/L/78). ^{22/} In introducing the draft resolution, the Chairman made two drafting changes to the text. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see chap. I above, draft resolution IV).

69. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision which the Committee adopted without a vote (see chap. I above, sect. B).

Chapter III

OTHER ISSUES STEMMING FROM THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

70. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 125th, 126th and 128th meetings, on 28 and 29 March and 24 April 1979.

A. Shared water resources

71. Under subitem 4 (a), the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on activities in the field of shared water resources (E/C.7/85). The Technical Secretary of the Committee apprised the Committee of the progress made in the organization of a meeting of river basin commissions and interested Governments, in accordance with resolution VII of the United Nations

^{22/} The draft resolution also deals with questions considered under agenda item 4.

Water Conference. He stated that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was now willing to provide the necessary financial support and that the meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 1980; it was hoped to hold it at the seat of a river basin commission.

72. Several delegations pointed to the importance of the work done within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on draft principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States.

73. There was general agreement that the Committee at its current session should not discuss general principles relating to shared natural resources since that question would be taken up again by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in accordance with its resolution 33/87.

74. Several delegations recalled that the United Nations had been seized of problems relating to shared water resources for 10 years and various references were made to the work of the International Law Commission in the intervening period.

75. Some delegations recalled that the basic elements to be borne in mind in that area were the good relations established with neighbouring States and the local character of the resource under review.

76. A few delegations indicated their concern for the delay in the organization of the proposed meeting of river basin commissions. One delegation recalled the different characteristics of the various types of river basin organization and the need, therefore, to have a representative grouping of organizations in the meeting to be convened. Two delegations reminded the Committee that river basin organization representatives could not speak for Governments and that it would therefore be necessary to have government representatives also at the meeting. In particular, one delegation emphasized the need to make maximum use of the experience of Governments which were already members of river basin organizations. Another delegation expressed the hope that the proposed meeting would provide impetus for furthering co-operation in that area, given the rather limited progress achieved thus far.

B. Technical co-operation among developing countries in the water sector

77. Under subitem 4 (b), the Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/86). The Technical Secretary of the Committee invited the Committee to review actions taken in relation to technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) in the field of water resources development, and to outline additional steps that might be taken by Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system.

78. One delegation pointed out that from the report before the Committee one could already extract existing possibilities for TCDC activities. He suggested that a useful link could be established between the UNDP Information Referral Service and an organization providing similar facilities in his own country. He also suggested that co-financing could be envisaged as a new TCDC activity, involving a high- and a middle-income country jointly assisting a lower-income country.

79. Two other delegations referred to the co-operation activities which those countries had under way with developing countries in that area. One specifically referred to the possibility of linking community water supply activities conducted in co-operation with WHO on a TCDC basis within an interregional context.

C. Drought loss management

80. A representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs introduced the note by the Secretary-General on drought loss management (E/C.7/87), prepared pursuant to the Mar del Plata Action Plan and to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification. ^{23/} He pointed out that a number of the reports of the regional meetings held under the auspices of the regional commissions also addressed the question of drought loss management.

81. The representative of UNEP provided supplementary information on further steps taken and planned in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. He pointed out that the General Assembly at its thirty-third session had endorsed the establishment of a special account within the United Nations for financing the implementation of that Plan of Action (see General Assembly resolution 33/116, sect. IX).

82. With reference to two of the proposed studies outlined in the Secretary-General's note, one delegation felt that such studies would duplicate the efforts already expended in the preparation for the Conference on Desertification. It was pointed out that a number of documents had been already prepared for that Conference addressing the technical and socio-economic aspects of desertification as a process and how to combat it. It further believed that the Desertification Unit recently established in UNEP should have a greater role to play in studies concerning desertification.

83. The Technical Secretary of the Committee pointed out that the proposals were formulated in consultation with UNEP and that, if adopted, would be executed with the involvement of UNEP and other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system.

D. Public information, education, training and research

84. The representative of UNESCO introduced that organization's report (E/C.7/88), which was before the Committee under subitem 4 (d). Referring to public information he stressed the importance of an active participation of all citizens in the implementation of national water policies and indicated some areas in which such participation was particularly needed. He stressed that public information should be a continuing function and must be adapted to local conditions. An exchange of information on specific national experiences in that field would be extremely useful.

85. Education and training deserved the highest priority, as without an adequate specialized manpower no country could embark on a major programme of water

^{23/} A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.

resources development. A continuous effort was needed to strengthen water resources education and training at all levels in accordance with practical needs and to adapt teaching methods to changing requirements.

86. Like education, research activities were a prerequisite to the development of indigenous capacity; they should cover all aspects of water resources assessment, planning, utilization and management and should be oriented not only to current needs but also to future requirements. He referred to the particular relevance of that subject in view of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

87. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicated that education, training and research activities were considered an important component of the Agency's programme in isotope hydrology. Describing a number of actions undertaken by IAEA in that field - some in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system - she indicated that those actions had contributed to a wider application of isotope techniques in water resources projects throughout the world.

88. Some delegations considered that public information, education, training and research were essential keys to attaining the goals of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and that therefore the highest priority should be accorded to such activities.

89. They felt that in the area of public information such aspects as health issues, personnel responsibility for major water management problems and community efforts to mitigate the effects of natural hazards were highly important. They stressed that education and training were particularly vital for professionals, technicians and lower levels of personnel specializing in water resources. Since that was a long-term task, some countries would continue to rely on the assistance of expatriates, but it was essential that those expatriates should undertake some training in order to better understand climatic and other local conditions.

90. One delegation emphasized the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in water resources education, taking into account the relationship between natural environment and society, and referred in particular to the training of planners. Another delegation mentioned integrated water resources management as a priority subject in training.

91. Referring to research, some delegations indicated that it should be developed in full accordance with the needs of socio-economic development and taking into account regional differences. One delegation mentioned the importance of establishing regional institutes for research, education and training. Another delegation stressed the need for an adequate dissemination of research results, referring in particular to the fact that field engineers were often not aware of such results.

92. The importance of intergovernmental programmes dealing with water resources research was recognized by several delegations and the relevance of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO was mentioned in that respect.

Action by the Committee

93. The action taken by the Committee under item 4 of its agenda is described in paragraph 69 above.

Chapter IV

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

94. The Committee on Natural Resources held its third special session at Headquarters, New York, from 26 to 30 March and on 24 April 1979. During the course of the session nine meetings were held (120th to 128th). The summary records are contained in documents E/C.7/SR.120-128.

95. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Per Jödahl (Sweden). The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Peter Hansen, made an introductory statement.

Membership and attendance

96. Under Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 A (LI), the membership of the Committee was increased to 54 members as from 1 January 1972. Two seats remain to be filled.

97. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

98. The following States Members of the United Nations participated as observers: Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Norway, Tunisia and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

99. The Holy See was also represented as an observer.

100. The following United Nations organizations, bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency.

Election of officers

101. At its 120th meeting, on 26 March 1979, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Per JÖDAHL (Sweden)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	K. C. THOMAS (India) Fritz WERNER (German Democratic Republic) Miguel RODRIGUEZ MENDOZA (Venezuela)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Gillane ALLAM (Egypt)

Agenda and documentation

102. The agenda for the session (E/C.7/105) was adopted by the Committee at its 120th meeting and is reproduced in annex I.

103. The documents before the Committee at its third special session are listed in annex II.

Chapter V

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

104. The Committee considered the draft report on its third special session (E/C.7/L.74 and Add.1-4) at its 129th meeting. The draft report, as amended, was adopted.

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Follow-up to and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan:
 - (a) Reports of regional meetings
 - (b) Policy, planning and management
 - (c) Assessment of water resources
 - (d) International drinking water supply and sanitation decade
 - (e) Water for agriculture
 - (f) Industrial water use
 - (g) Financing arrangements
 - (h) Institutional arrangements for international co-operation
4. Other issues stemming from the Mar del Plata Action Plan:
 - (a) Shared water resources
 - (b) Technical co-operation among developing countries in the water sector
 - (c) Drought loss management
 - (d) Public information, education, training and research
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS
THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/77	2	Provisional agenda
E/C.7/78	3	Assessment of water resources: report prepared by WMO, and UNESCO
E/C.7/79	3	Water policy, planning and management: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/80 and Add.1	3	Drinking water supply and sanitation: progress report prepared by WHO
E/C.7/81	3	Water resources development and management in agriculture: progress report prepared by FAO
[E/C.7/82		Symbol not used]
E/C.7/83	3	Financing arrangements for international co-operation in the development of water resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/84	3	Institutional arrangements for international co-operation for water development: report of ACC
E/C.7/84/Add.1 and Corr.1	3	Programme budget implications of document E/C.7/84: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/85	4	Activities in the field of shared water resources: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/86	4	Technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/87	4	Drought loss management: note by the Secretary-General

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/88	4	Public information, education, training and research: report prepared by UNESCO
E/C.7/89	3, 4	Follow-up to and implementation of the United Nations Water Conference: progress report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/90	3	Recommendations of the regional meeting convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/91	3	Recommendations of the regional meeting convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/92	3	Recommendations of the regional meeting convened by the Economic Commission for Africa: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/93	3	Progress report of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe
E/C.7/94	3	Summary of the report on the second regional water meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia
E/C.7/105		Agenda of the third special session as adopted by the Committee
E/C.7/L.74 and Add.1-4		Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/L.75	3 (d)	Italy, Netherlands and Sweden: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.75/Rev.1	3 (d)	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/C.7/L.76	3 (h)	Argentina: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.77	3 (h)	Chairman of the Committee: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.77/Rev.1	3 (h)	Chairman of the Committee: revised draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/L.78	3, 4	Chairman of the Committee: draft resolution
E/C.7/L.79	3 (h)	Revised text of draft resolution E/C.7/L.76, as adopted by the Committee
E/C.7/L.80	3 (d)	Revised text of draft resolution E/C.7/L.75/Rev.1, as adopted by the Committee

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

يمكن الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة من المكتبات ودور التوزيع في جميع أنحاء العالم - استعلم عنها من المكتبة التي تتعامل معها أو اكتب إلى : الأمم المتحدة ، قسم البيع في نيويورك أو في جنيف .

如何购取联合国出版物

联合国出版物在全世界各地的书店和经售处均有发售。请向书店询问或写信到纽约或日内瓦的联合国销售组。

HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to: United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

Les publications des Nations Unies sont en vente dans les librairies et les agences dépositaires du monde entier. Informez-vous auprès de votre libraire ou adressez-vous à : Nations Unies, Section des ventes, New York ou Genève.

КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех районах мира. Наводите справки об изданиях в вашем книжном магазине или пишите по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция по продаже изданий, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librero o diríjase a: Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.
