

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE EIGHTH SESSION

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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.

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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,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on prospects for the development of non-metallic minerals, 1/

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session a further report, based on existing literature, on prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials, with special reference to bentonite, mica, magnesite, feldspar, fluorspar and baryte.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the continuing need for internationally consistent and easily understood statistics on mineral production and consumption,

Taking into account the discussions by the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session on the report of the Secretary-General on the standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources, 2/ which summarized the results of the meeting of the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General in pursuance of Council resolution 1979/72 of 3 August 1979,

1. Endorses the report of the Secretary-General on the standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources;
2. Notes that the Council, in resolution 1979/72, requested the group of experts to report to the Committee on Natural Resources, and expresses its concern

that the report, which was unanimously adopted by the group, had been amended by the Secretary-General before it was issued;

3. Requests, therefore, that the action to be taken in response to the requests contained in the paragraphs below be based on the report in its original form;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the recommendations in the report on the activities of the United Nations in the reporting, compilation and publication of statistics on mineral production and consumption;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to consider which additional activities would be required to implement these recommendations, including definitions and terminology for individual minerals and metals, as well as statistics on the secondary recovery of metals;

6. Urges Governments to take into account the recommendations of the group of experts and to give the report the widest possible distribution;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report the progress made in pursuance of the requests contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 above to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Energy development

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, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which, inter alia, called for effective and urgent measures to be taken by the international community for the attainment of the goals and objectives in the field of energy, as set out in paragraph 34 of the Strategy,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 37/251 of 21 December 1982 on development of the energy resources of developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy 3/ and the comments thereon,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session a report on the world energy situation, prospects and salient issues;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to incorporate in the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/202 of 20 December 1982 a review of the progress made and an analysis of obstacles encountered in the implementation of policy measures in the field of energy, as specified in paragraphs 126 and 127 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts towards the co-ordination of programmes and activities within the United Nations system in the field of energy in order to promote the most effective and timely development and utilization of energy resources and technologies, in both developing and developed countries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of the use of computer processing methods in mineral exploration and development, in particular, but not limited to, remote sensing, geochemistry, ore reserve calculation, mine planning, economic and financial analysis, and data storage and retrieval,

Bearing in mind the advantages that developing countries could derive from a wider application of such techniques,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources 4/ and of the information on the current activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat in this field,

Mindful of the importance of the transfer of technology, in particular new technology, that will strengthen the national capabilities of developing countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session on the use of computer techniques, particularly in the developing countries, in the exploration and development of natural resources;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session on the progress made in the application of such techniques in the technical co-operation activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development;
3. Urges Governments to consider how the application of such techniques can be strengthened in their mineral exploration and development activities and invites Governments and institutions to provide facilities for seminars and symposia on this subject.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

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,

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; 5/
2. Welcomes the efforts of the Revolving Fund to identify the requirements for feasibility and post-discovery follow-up work in order to bring successful exploration projects to the production stage;
3. Takes note also of the Revolving Fund's evaluation of potential geothermal exploration projects;
4. Recognizes the need to increase financial support to the Fund in order to effectively meet the exploration requirements of developing countries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the problems caused by the present international economic situation to most countries, in particular the developing countries,

Noting the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to maximize their benefits from the exploration, exploitation and processing of their natural resources in order to strengthen their economic development,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources 6/ and the comments of the Committee on Natural Resources thereon, 7/

1. Requests the Committee on Natural Resources to continue to discuss, at its ninth session, the item on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, including, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening of national capabilities to finance and manage the exploration, exploitation and processing of natural resources for the national benefit;

(b) Promotion of investments in natural resources in line with basic priorities;

(c) Identification of new possibilities for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of natural resources;

(d) Conservation of natural resources;

(e) Environment and natural resources.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a further report on the subject of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above and the comments made by the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session;

3. Affirms in this context the importance of the ongoing work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on a code of conduct for transnational corporations, as it relates to natural resources.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Water resources development: progress and prospects in
the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,
including the International Drinking Water Supply and
Sanitation Decade

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling paragraph 4 of section VI of its resolution 1981/80 of 24 July 1981, and other relevant resolutions of the Council and the General Assembly concerning the adoption, implementation and monitoring of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 8/

Recognizing that water resources development is an interdisciplinary and multisectoral process which cuts across many sectors of economic and social development, such as food production, environment and health, energy, human settlements, desertification, industrialization, transport, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and disaster relief,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in the context of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, prepared in consultation with the Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in pursuance of paragraph 4 of section VI of Council resolution 1981/80; 9/

2. Reaffirms the importance of the implementation, within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and notes the progress being made in that context by Governments with the support of multilateral and bilateral co-operation;

3. Expresses concern that, notwithstanding this progress, implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan has so far been well below the level required to meet the needs of developing countries, in large part owing to the gap between the need for and the availability of financial resources;

4. Urges Governments of developing countries to assign high priority in their national development planning to the development of their water resources and to take active steps to formulate proposals for financial and technical assistance;

5. Urges bilateral and multilateral donors and financing institutions to respond positively to requests from developing countries and to increase, under favourable terms and conditions, the flow of financial assistance to developing countries for the promotion of the development of water resources;

6. Stresses the needs of the least developed countries in this context;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organizations concerned, to compile information on the activities of bilateral aid programmes and international organizations, including present capacities and terms and conditions under which they provide finances for water resources development, with a view to examining possible measures to increase the flow of resources and to improve the terms and conditions, as well as disseminating relevant information to countries and international organizations, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session;

8. Reaffirms the benefits of establishing national mechanisms to co-ordinate all water policies and programmes;

9. Calls upon the regional commissions, in co-operation with the concerned organizations of the United Nations system, to examine measures to promote the accelerated development of water resources in their respective regions;

10. Recommends to the General Assembly that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade should, at its session in 1984, give due consideration to the role played by water resources development in the different elements of the International Development Strategy;

11. Recommends that Governments re-evaluate the current status of their respective surface- and ground-water resources with a view to formulating specific programmes for reaching the targets recommended in the Mar del Plata Action Plan and, on the basis of national evaluation of problems, needs and constraints, indicate requirements in respect of technical assistance and advisory services, equipment, expertise and fellowships;

12. Urges Governments of developing countries to adopt national targets for drinking water supply and sanitation services, at the highest possible rate commensurate with resource availability, absorptive capacity and ability, and to formulate action plans and programmes for implementing the targeted goals, taking also into consideration resolution 36/13 of 13 May 1983 of the World Health Assembly;

13. Recommends that Governments of developing countries should:
- (a) Estimate present and future needs for trained manpower for the development and management of water in agriculture, and take concrete steps to formulate plans and programmes to expand training capabilities;
 - (b) Evolve plans and programmes for improving the efficiency of agricultural water management, including appropriate measures to motivate farmers for this purpose;
 - (c) Promote the development of medium- and small-scale village irrigation schemes so as to build the pool of experience and expertise necessary for the planning and implementation of large schemes;
14. Recommends that Governments should intensify efforts to implement the recommendations on industrial water use made at Mar del Plata and, in particular:
- (a) Initiate studies on the present and potential use of water by specific industries;
 - (b) Integrate industrial water use in overall policies and projects for the development of water resources;
 - (c) Conduct research on the use, treatment and recycling of water;
 - (d) Evolve appropriate economic and regulatory mechanisms for more efficient water use in industry and waste-water treatment;
15. Urges Governments to consider action to integrate plans for the development of hydropower into overall plans for the development of water resources and electric power systems, and provide for improved co-ordination at the national level between the water-related and energy-related institutional frameworks;
16. Calls upon Governments to formulate programmes and projects for the improvement of transport on rivers and lakes, and to promote inter-country co-operation in this field;
17. Recommends that with regard to the mitigation of effects from floods and droughts, countries should give high priority to early-warning and forecasting systems, as well as to structural and other non-structural measures, and integrate projects for flood- and drought-loss management in overall plans for the development of water resources;
18. Urges Governments to take the steps necessary to intensify efforts to develop and utilize appropriate techniques for the assessment and monitoring of the environmental impact of water projects, and to ensure that environmental and human health considerations will be systematically incorporated in the planning, implementation and operation of water schemes;
19. Recommends that Governments should direct their efforts towards developing appropriate hydraulic techniques and systems for the rational utilization and conservation of water resources in rural areas, for example, by small-scale dams and ponds, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas;

20. Calls upon Governments to co-operate fully in promoting education and training and research in the field of water resources, and to give priority to the teaching of science and technology at secondary and university levels, in particular in subjects related to this field;

21. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme and other concerned organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their catalytic roles in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of water resources;

22. Urges Governments of developing countries to take appropriate steps to co-operate among themselves and with the United Nations system in compiling, in a systematic manner, information on technical co-operation among developing countries and arranging for its dissemination at periodic intervals, in order to provide further stimulus to the promotion of technical co-operation in water development;

23. Welcomes the conclusions of the colloquium held at the Centre for Waters at Zagreb on support for the establishment within this Centre of a small international technical unit dealing with technical co-operation among developing countries in the water resources sector, and requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme and other competent agencies, to study the matter further, especially with regard to a review of possible financial sources for non-local cost components, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Utilization of subsurface space

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1981/82 of 24 July 1981,

Deeply concerned by the problems of population, urbanization and overcrowding and the need to provide people with food, water and an adequate energy supply,

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

Taking into account the experience in the use of subsurface space already existing in many parts of the world and in specialized international organizations, and the long lead time required for the planning and construction of subsurface facilities,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of subsurface space and its potential in developing countries, 10/

1. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen support mechanisms in the United Nations to make known the scope with respect to the utilization of subsurface space as a potentially important facet of development activity in developing countries;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the development and utilization of subsurface space and the activities of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in this area for the consideration of the Committee at its ninth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources, as decided by the Council in its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970,

Bearing in mind the debates held at other sessions of the Committee on the co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,

Reaffirming that one of the principal responsibilities of the Committee is to provide the Council with guidance in the programming and implementation of these programmes,

Recognizing that part of this guidance is on the avoidance of duplication of effort by ensuring that the programmes of the many organizational units of the United Nations are co-ordinated,

Further recognizing the advantages of co-ordinating the efforts of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system which also carry out work in the natural resources field,

Affirming that the Committee on Natural Resources was again unable to discharge this responsibility on the basis of the report submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration at its eighth session, 11/

1. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Committee on Natural Resources at its future sessions reports that contain an analysis of the level of co-operation and co-ordination among different organs of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources, in order to enable the Committee to identify existing problems, to assess the extent, if any, to which there is duplication of effort, and to formulate appropriate recommendations in this area;

2. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General by providing him with the information needed for the elaboration of the reports referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to take full account of the points made in discussion of this item by the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session and, in particular, to consider how best to avoid duplication of responsibility and effort within the Secretariat.

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 eighth session and draft provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its eighth session; 12/
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth 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
 - (b) Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1761 B (LIV))

Report of the Secretary-General on prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials, with special reference to bentonite, mica, magnesite, feldspar, fluorspar and baryte (see draft resolution I above)

4. Energy resources:
 - (a) Trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology
 - (b) Prospects and salient issues in the world energy situation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of energy resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1761 B (LIV))

Report of the Secretary-General on prospects and salient issues in the world energy situation (see draft resolution III above)

5. Water resources development: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by Governments and by international organizations in the implementation of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/18)

Report of the Secretary-General on the overall progress made by Governments in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80, sect. VI) 13/

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of integrated approaches and programmes regarding education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80, sect. III)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the establishment and upgrading of regional and subregional networks for training in the field of water resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80, sect. III)

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development (see draft resolution IV above)

7. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

Documentation

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV))

8. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 2120 (LXIII) and draft resolution V above)

9. Utilization of subsurface space

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the development and utilization of subsurface space (see draft resolution VIII above)

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 water resources (Economic and Social Council resolutions 1957 B (LIX), 2116 (LXIII) and 1981/80, sect. IV)

11. Draft provisional agenda and documentation for the tenth session of the Committee

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the tenth session

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 decisions adopted by the Committee:

Decision 8/1. Future development of the work of the Committee

At its 170th meeting, on 17 June 1983, the Committee on Natural Resources, having recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970 containing the terms of reference of the Committee, and having noted the unanimous view of its members on the need to increase its efficiency and effectiveness, decided:

(a) To consider, at its ninth session, ways and means by which it could better discharge its responsibilities;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to ensure that the documentation for its future sessions is distributed in all languages at least six weeks before the commencement of the sessions, in order to enable all delegations to participate effectively in the work of the Committee.

Decision 8/2. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

At its 179th meeting, on 17 June 1983, the Committee on Natural Resources took note of the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources. 14/

Chapter II

MINERAL RESOURCES

4. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 160th and 161st meetings, on 9 June 1983. It had before it four reports of the Secretary-General on new locations for exploration for phosphate rock in the developing countries (E/C.7/1983/2), prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/79 of 24 July 1981; prospects for the development of non-metallic minerals (E/C.7/1983/4); trends and salient issues, with particular reference to rare metals (E/C.7/1983/8); and standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources (E/C.7/1983/9), prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/72 of 3 August 1979; as well as a note by the Secretary-General on mineral resources: survey of investment in mining, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/78 of 24 July 1981 (E/C.7/1983/6).
5. The item was introduced by the Deputy Director, Minerals Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He pointed out that some of the basic trends discussed by the Committee at its seventh session had continued to dominate the international mineral sector. Investment costs for major mineral projects were continuing to rise, and demand for mineral commodities had declined to levels not seen in more than 10 years in some cases. The recession in most developed market economy countries which, as a group, accounted for some two thirds of world consumption of minerals and metals, had during the past three years resulted in a decrease in the use of production facilities, the closure of several mines and a virtual termination of investment activities in new projects. In recent months, the recession had given way to a modest recovery which, he believed, would eventually lead to growth in the demand for minerals and to increases in prices.
6. The decline in demand and the low prices during the early 1980s had demonstrated once more the vulnerability of the international mineral industry to economic changes, in particular those affecting the developed market economies. The most recent, and one of the longest, declines in demand and prices had added new uncertainties to the mineral sector. While there was no doubt that some of the recent problems were caused by the recession and would be alleviated once recovery was in progress, there were also indications that structural changes were taking place in the consumption of mineral commodities. Overall growth in demand had started to slow down during the mid-1970s; many now believed that the high growth rates of the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s would not be repeated. Several explanations were offered for these changes: among these were higher energy prices and, as a consequence, higher production costs for metals; recycling, which was less energy intensive; the substitution of metals by other products (plastics, fibre optics and ceramics); conservation; and a lower level of consumption of raw materials as a proportion of gross national product for the developed economies.
7. The Deputy Director noted that the slow growth in demand for minerals and metals in recent years had resulted in a sharp curtailment of investment in new production facilities, in particular those for base and ferrous metals; mines, smelters and refineries had been closed, and it was not clear at present whether all would be reopened when demand increased again during the forthcoming recovery. Referring to sub-item 3 (c), entitled "Survey of investments in mining", he said that the decline in investment and the reduction in production capacity had made

the survey of planned investment in major mineral industries, "in particular in regard to the regional distribution of mineral exploration and development" as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1981/78 of 24 July 1981, of questionable usefulness since the situation in 1982 was unlikely to be representative of long-term trends. The Secretary-General therefore had not undertaken that survey at the present time. The Committee's guidance was requested on whether to undertake this survey for submission to its ninth session, since it was expected that by 1984 overall investment in the mineral sector would have reached more stable levels and a more useful result could be achieved.

8. Referring to sub-item 3 (a), entitled "Trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology", the Deputy Director noted that development prospects for rare metals, as well as non-metallic minerals, were relatively good, as compared to other minerals and metals, although there were some unique problems. The supply of rare metals was often concentrated in the hands of mining companies in one or very few countries, the overall market was small and entry into the market might be difficult because of close ties between traditional producers and consumers.

9. Most non-metallic minerals were produced in large quantities and were of low value and could therefore be consumed economically only in the vicinity of the production site; these bulk materials were therefore not for export and usually not of interest to large international mining companies. Developing countries, therefore, would in most cases have to rely on internal financing, although some funds might be available from international and bilateral financing agencies. On the other hand, increased production of non-metallic minerals and products, including cement, silica sand, building stone and others, was desirable in many developing countries in order to reduce imports of such materials and hence save foreign exchange earnings. Since the national markets of the smaller countries were often too small to justify the minimum size of production facilities required for low-cost production, the development of non-metallic minerals could also contribute to regional co-operation between countries.

10. Regarding the standardization of terminology concerning mineral resources, the report before the Committee broke new ground, he said. The statistical measure of consumption of mineral resources should relate to industrial consumption. The matter might be considered by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session, to be held in 1985.

A. Trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology: non-metallic minerals and rare metals

11. Several delegations protested strongly that, because the reports of the Secretary-General were not available early enough for consultations with specialists in the home countries of members of the Committee, the members could not do justice to specialized subjects on the agenda.

12. Some delegations referred to the economic crisis which had dominated the mineral industry in industrialized and developing countries. It was, however, necessary to maintain momentum in mineral development, and industry should adjust to temporary difficulties. One delegation mentioned that, while in the 1970s energy questions dominated the international agenda, in the 1980s more prominence could be given to other raw materials.

13. Some delegations recommended that in future reports on trends and salient issues, commodity prices should be given in constant terms so as better to identify long-terms trends. In regard to information on production, the level of installed capacity should also be included to allow a comparison of actual production and possible additional production. Consideration should also be given to changes in the pattern of ownership, the proliferation of large projects (i.e., those in which more than \$US 1 billion had been invested) and the emergence of new approaches in mineral project development.

14. One delegation stated that the present decline in the output of minerals and metals was characteristic only of the market economies; mining development in centrally planned economies took place at an accelerated pace. The report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1983/8) was extremely general and contained inaccuracies.

15. Some delegations, referring to the report of the Secretary-General on non-metallic minerals (E/C.7/1983/4), stated that the description was rather simplified and that not enough comprehensive information on present production and forecasts had been provided. Furthermore, more minerals should have been covered. One delegation distributed to participants a national paper on basic trends and particularly important results in activities related to the study and use of rare metals.

16. Several delegations referred to the importance of non-metallic minerals in their own economies. In developing countries, construction materials were of great importance for rural areas, and smaller production facilities that were economical at low capacities had been developed. One delegation referred to small cement plants, for example, which could operate at daily capacities of 30 to 200 tons. Such facilities were more flexible in the use of raw materials, many of which were available in many places.

17. Some delegations, referring to the chapter of the report on substitution, mentioned that substitution might not necessarily mean that non-metallic minerals (ceramics, glass, plastics and others) would take the place of metals; rather, there was substitution in both directions. One delegation mentioned that substitution took place as an interaction between technical and economic factors and that the latter were usually the more important. The question was what type of performance one would receive at what price.

B. New sources of phosphate rock and potash,
particularly low-grade deposits

18. Members of the Committee noted the report of the Secretary-General on new locations for exploration for phosphate rock in the developing countries (E/C.7/1983/2) and agreed that developing countries were well advised to aim at the substitution of imports of fertilizer, raw materials by indigenous raw materials, including low-grade deposits. In some cases, low-grade phosphate rock could be applied directly, while normally marketable phosphate would have to have a minimum phosphorous oxide content. Some delegations, on the other hand, noted that there was little justification for developing low-grade deposits for export as long as there was an oversupply in the international market. There were sufficient high-grade deposits in the major producing countries.

19. Members of the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to support efforts by developing countries to develop or increase national production of phosphate rock to meet their agricultural needs (E/C.7/1983/2, para. 109). It was likely that systematic prospecting and exploration for phosphate rock and potash would result in the discovery of additional deposits in a number of importing developing countries which, as a group, imported more fertilizers than they exported. There was scope, therefore, in these countries to establish domestic fertilizer production facilities, not only to meet current demand but also to allow increased fertilizer application.

20. Some delegations mentioned that the report of the Secretary-General did not address some of the problems mentioned in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/79. One delegation distributed to participants a national paper on new areas for prospecting for phosphate deposits in the developing countries.

C. Survey of planned investment in mining

21. Members of the Committee noted with regret that the survey of planned investment in mineral exploration and development, requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/78 of 24 July 1981, had not been undertaken. While investment in the international mining industry had declined substantially throughout the world, investment continued to be made in some developing countries and in centrally planned economies. Investment would be forthcoming if international mineral markets were stabilized and just prices were ensured for producers and exporters. One delegation, noting that mechanisms for the flow of information on investment activities were available at the national level, suggested that the possibility of convening a group of experts on that subject be considered.

22. One delegation noted that investment in new projects in developing countries was lacking not only because of the high level of indebtedness of these countries but also because of the unwillingness of international mining companies to commit funding for such projects. Another delegation had doubts regarding the usefulness of preparing the survey of planned investment in mineral exploration and development for the ninth session of the Committee, taking into account that a survey of such activities undertaken at the present time would probably not be representative of the long-term behaviour of the industry, as was mentioned in the note by the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1983/6). That delegation wanted to know which countries would be included in the survey, whether an analysis of actual expenditures would be made, and whether information was to be collected on investment by developing countries in their own countries.

D. Terminology for mineral production and consumption

23. Members of the Committee noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources (E/C.7/1983/9). The recommendations of the Secretary-General, which were based on the results of the work of an expert group convened at United Nations Headquarters earlier in 1983, were very useful in ensuring that the terminology used in reporting to the United Nations on mineral production and consumption was uniformly applied and clearly understood by everybody. Several delegations noted that additional work was necessary to standardize terminology for specific minerals

and metals. One delegation mentioned that it would be useful to use gross weight in regard to mineral production, metal content instead of oxide content, to report also on the production of by-products. Assistance should be provided to countries wishing to improve procedures for the collection and dissemination of statistics on mineral production and consumption.

24. One delegation protested that the report of the Secretary-General differed from that prepared by the Group of Experts. Some of the results of the Group of Experts were more difficult to understand clearly, although the overall thrust of the recommendations correctly reflected its work.

25. One delegation presented to the United Nations Secretariat a national paper on standardization of terminology and definitions in the field of mineral production and consumption.

Action by the Committee

Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

26. At the 169th meeting, on 16 June 1983, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.6), entitled "Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials".

27. At the same meeting, the representative of France proposed the insertion of the words "based on existing literature" in the operative paragraph of the resolution.

28. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.6, as orally amended (see chap. I, draft resolution I).

Standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources

29. At the 169th meeting, on 16 June 1983, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.4), entitled "Standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources".

30. At the same meeting, the representative of France suggested the deletion of the third preambular paragraph which read: "Noting, in particular, the contribution prepared by the Soviet specialists". The representative of the United Kingdom accepted that suggestion, and further orally revised the draft resolution by revising the words "recommendations contained in", in operative paragraph 4, to read "recommendations in", and by replacing, in operative paragraph 7, the words "to report on the progress made in the activities mentioned in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above" by the words "to report the progress made in pursuance of the requests contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 above".

31. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.4, as orally revised (see chap. I, draft resolution II).

Chapter III

ENERGY RESOURCES

32. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 168th meeting, on 15 June 1983. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy (E/C.7/1983/10), prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1761 B (LIV) of 18 May 1973.

33. In his introductory statement, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs noted that the main factors behind the continuing decline in the level of world energy demand in the past three years had been the slowdown in economic activity, and conservation measures. The world oil industry had experienced substantial underutilization of refining and production capacity, falling prices, shrinking revenues and increasing uncertainty as to future demand and prices.

34. With regard to the medium-term period until 1990, he referred to the continuing influence of past events and policies, such as the drive for energy conservation and oil substitution, the upsurge in oil exploration and development, the interest in alternative energy sources and the hardening of public attitudes towards nuclear power. Similarly, there were several key uncertainties concerning the next seven years, such as macro-economic growth rates and the intensity of energy conservation.

35. Among the several issues that would confront the future world energy economy were the means of securing the needed transfer of energy-related technology to developing countries; the strengthening of the technological capacity of the developing countries in the field of energy; and the central task of financing increased exploration and development of the indigenous energy resources of developing countries.

36. For the energy-deficient developing countries, the gap between indigenous supply and requirements for conventional commercial energy would rise from 5.3 million barrels a day of oil equivalent in 1980 to an estimated 12.7 in the year 2000, of which oil was estimated to account for about 11.2 million barrels. The developing countries possessed vast but unexploited conventional and unconventional energy resource potential, particularly hydrocarbon resources. In developing countries, the success rates of oil and gas discoveries, the productivity of wells drilled, the costs per barrel of production and the rates of return on investment in exploration and development were far more favourable when compared with similar indicators in many developed countries; however, only a small fraction of world exploration effort was directed towards the developing countries. The investment requirements, even for a modest acceleration of energy exploration and development of primary conventional energy resources, required a four-fold increase over the current levels of energy exploration and production investments. The external energy financing gap for exploration and production alone could be estimated to reach \$20-25 billion for the year 1990. The widening financing gap called for corrective measures to provide additional funding, particularly for exploratory drilling, such as setting up an energy affiliate in the World Bank. Financial flows to the energy sector should be long-term, of a concessional type, of a critical minimum size, flexible enough to adjust to particular conditions and should include a significant grant element for

exploration. The nascent but active national energy and oil enterprises required strengthening through appropriate support from bilateral, multilateral and regional sources. Finally, new concepts in exploration and development agreements which could facilitate co-operation between transnational corporations and host Governments required serious attention.

37. In a supplementary introductory statement, a representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs referred to the conclusions of a meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Energy and Petroleum Experts on Energy in the 1980s, the report on which was to be issued as a United Nations publication. The group had agreed that heavy dependence on petroleum would persist, particularly in the developing countries. The development of alternative sources of energy, as well as energy conservation, would not obviate the need for a substantial expansion of conventional energy sources, particularly hydrocarbons. The experts had also advocated a programme of international co-operation for energy conservation, including a mechanism of a special revolving nature for financing energy conservation measures in developing countries and a world conference on the efficient use of energy. They also underlined the apparent crisis in confidence with regard to nuclear energy and suggested a critical analysis of the comparative economics of nuclear power. With regard to public attitudes towards nuclear energy, the opinions of nuclear scientists, as well as energy economists, were divided as to the safety and economics of nuclear power. Furthermore, leaders of public opinion also seriously differed as to their evaluation of this subject.

38. In the discussion which followed, several speakers commented on energy developments in their own countries and in virtually all cases reported impressive efforts and specific achievements in the areas of energy production, both conventional and unconventional, and gains in energy efficiency.

39. Most of the delegations which addressed this agenda item commended the overall quality of the Secretary-General's report (E/C.7/1983/10), one noting that the Secretariat had had access to a wide range of research in the area, and another observing that technical experts in his country could associate themselves with most of the analyses contained in the report.

40. In the view of several delegations, the energy problem could be solved only by the comprehensive utilization of conventional, as well as other energy resources. Fossil fuels, particularly conventional hydrocarbons, would continue to be important. Hydropower, coal and natural gas projects, along with nuclear power, had a role to play and offered opportunities for international co-operation.

41. Several delegations, including the Chairman in his opening statement, stated that the Committee was the proper forum for the co-ordination of energy programmes in the United Nations system. At present, there was an absence of co-ordinated effort on the part of the United Nations in the field of energy. The primary function of the Committee should be to provide an assessment of global energy requirements and sources. It should adopt an approach that was oriented towards the future.

42. Several delegations stated that the report of the Secretary-General provided a good analysis of current trends and that systematic and comprehensive biennial reports covering the world energy situation, prospects and issues, including energy technology issues, as well as the progress and activities of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system in the energy field, should be submitted

to the Committee. More adequate treatment of the issues facing the developing countries and of those areas in which the United Nations system could help was needed.

43. In a large number of developing countries, oil production had increased, and the impact of energy conservation efforts had yet to make a difference in the total oil consumption of these countries.

44. Several delegations emphasized the need for additional co-operation and assistance from the United Nations to realize the large potential of energy resources development in developing countries. These countries also would need to adopt a comprehensive energy technology policy directed towards self-reliance and the building up of an adequate technology base. If a country had a technology base and the capacity to fulfil capital requirements, remarkable results could be achieved in the field of oil exploration and development, among others. Opportunities for co-operation among developing countries was mentioned in this context.

45. There seemed to be general agreement that the policy problems focused on in the report, that is, transfer of technology in the energy field and the financing of energy resource development in developing countries, were, indeed, key questions to be confronted in international energy policies. Several speakers expressed their Governments' realization of the importance of international action in the financing field, and two explicitly noted their Governments' willingness to see established, in association with the World Bank, a supplementary mechanism to promote the flow of capital to developing countries for energy resource development.

46. An aspect of the report which drew favourable comment by several delegations was its stress on the importance of certain key uncertainties in determining the global energy demand-supply situation in 1990 particularly uncertainties regarding future macro-economic growth rates throughout the world. One delegation, however, stated that centrally planned economies had established plans for the period 1981-1985 and targets for the years 1986-1990 and that his delegation regarded these plans and targets as definite and certain of attainment. The reference to the current world recession and weak economic growth prospects in the Secretary-General's report was not relevant to this group of countries. Some temporary difficulties described in paragraphs 48 and 58 of the report could not diminish the gradual development and future prospects of the economies of those countries.

47. Some delegations voiced disappointment that the report did not include more detailed data regarding trends in centrally planned countries or in specific groups of developing countries, for example, in oil-importing developing countries. In response to this point, a member of the Secretariat explained that page limitations had prevented the Secretariat from presenting as much detailed information as it would have liked.

48. Several speakers drew upon particular passages in the report on trends in energy in order to emphasize their Government's concerns regarding specific aspects of the future global energy situation. For example, one representative stressed the importance of coal and natural gas in achieving a future energy balance in his own country and in the world as a whole. Another noted the statement in the report to the effect that the residential-commercial and transportation sectors of the developed market economies had been relatively (as compared to the industrial

sector) sheltered from rises in domestic energy prices and expressed the hope for the implementation of a more vigorous conservation policy by those Governments in these sectors. The recent decline in exploratory drilling for oil, characterized in the report as extending through 1982 and early 1983, was also identified as a source of concern, as was the fact that the rate of growth of hydro-generated electricity had actually declined somewhat since the early 1970s. The fall in the rates of investment (at the macro-economic level) in developing countries since 1979, noted in the Secretary-General's report, was seen as very worrisome. Some representatives, in referring to the discussion in the report of the accident at the nuclear power facility at Three Mile Island, expressed the view that the significance of that event had been exaggerated in the communications media. One representative emphasized the seriousness of the environmental problems associated with the combustion of fossil fuels and urged that intensified efforts be made to accelerate the use of renewable sources of energy.

49. In response to comments made, the representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs said that the Secretariat shared the desires of delegations for more extensive reporting and analysis of trends in the energy sector. However, there were limitations on staff and time, as well as on the size of documents. The energy unit in his Department was currently composed of only two Professional staff members who had had a heavy load of work in the recent period.

50. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency took issue with the conclusions in the report on nuclear power and stated that the Agency would present new and correct material on the safety record of nuclear power for the benefit of the Committee.

Action by the Committee

Energy development

51. At the 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983, the Committee considered a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.11) submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Energy development". At the same meeting, amendments were proposed to operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"2. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1984, a review of progress and analysis of obstacles in the implementation of policy measures in the field of energy, specified in General Assembly resolution 35/56, section III.H, paragraphs 126 and 127, with particular attention to the following aspects:

"(a) The progress of measures to rationalize energy consumption, through, inter alia, conservation, improved efficiency of energy systems, especially of hydrocarbons, improved energy management and increased technical manpower training;

"(b) The progress of measures and activities on the part of the international community in support and facilitation of the effective participation of developing countries in the production, processing, marketing

and distribution of their energy resources in conformity with the principle of full and permanent sovereignty of each country over its natural resources;

"(c) The progress of measures and activities on the part of developed countries and others with a capacity to do so, as well as international institutions, to assist developing countries in preparing comprehensive assessments of energy needs, uses and resources and in facilitating their planning and review of the energy needs implicit in their development goals;

"(d) The progress of measures and activities on the part of the international community to facilitate much greater participation by the international, national and regional financial institutions in the financing of energy projects, in particular those sited in the least developed countries, so as to bring about an increase in the flow of different types of resources;

"(e) The progress of measures and activities on the part of the international community in facilitating and improving access to energy-related technologies, expanded energy research and development and increased investment flows into energy exploration and development;

"3. Further requests the Secretary-General to bring about, as soon as possible, unified and integrated substantive and technical secretariat support arrangements in the field of energy, in order to facilitate inter alia, an adequate response to section III.H of the International Development Strategy, concerning energy, particularly in the effective preparation of reports requested above through an appropriate strengthening of the energy activities of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs."

52. The representatives of the Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Bangladesh and France suggested the deletion of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. The representative of Bangladesh subsequently proposed the amendment of operative paragraph 2 to read as follows:

"2. Also requests the Secretary-General to incorporate in the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/202 of 20 December 1982 a review of the progress made and an analysis of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of policy measures in the field of energy as specified in paragraphs 126 and 127 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;"

53. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Bangladesh proposed the replacement of operative paragraph 3 by the following text:

"3. Further requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts towards the co-ordination of programmes and activities within the United Nations system in the field of energy in order to promote the most effective and timely development and utilization of energy resources and technologies, both in developing and developed countries."

54. At the same meeting, the representative of the German Democratic Republic proposed the addition of the words "and the comments thereon" in the fourth preambular paragraph.

55. At the same meeting, after statements by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, the Sudan, India, Yugoslavia and Jamaica, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.11, as orally amended (see chap. I, draft resolution III).

Chapter IV

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

56. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 162nd meeting, on 10 June 1983. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources (E/C.7/1983/3). The item was introduced by the Deputy Director, Minerals Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He noted that the report submitted to the Committee at its preceding session (E/C.7/116) had provided details on new developments in remote sensing, exploration geophysics and geochemistry, seismology and exploration drilling for oil. The current report also provided information on recent trends in geophysics and geochemistry and, for the first time, exploration drilling for non-fuel minerals and advances in metallurgy were also covered. In addition, a short discussion of the application of computer techniques to mineral exploration and development was included.

57. New developments in the field of remote sensing included the availability of more sophisticated equipment for the interpretation of satellite imagery, new techniques to detect drainage and other structures under the cover of sand or overburden and the use of cameras with higher levels of ground resolution, thus allowing the recognition of additional details. Progress had taken place in hardware and programmes for complex interpretation processes in the fields of exploratory geophysics and geochemistry. With those modern techniques and improvements of field and laboratory methods, hidden or deeper-lying ore deposits could increasingly be detected. In diamond-core drilling a major change had occurred with the increased application of hydraulics in all operations of the drilling rigs themselves and support activities. However, costs had also increased, since many exploration sites were more remote and less easily accessible than in earlier years.

58. He noted that a virtual revolution had taken place in the past few years in the design and production of small computers and the necessary software to run them. Very powerful mini- and micro-computers were currently available at prices that were much lower than even two years before. Electronic data-processing techniques were being applied to all phases of mineral exploration and development - geochemistry, geophysics, ore reserve calculation, mine planning and financial and economic analysis. In some of the projects executed by the Department as a part of its technical co-operation programme, nationals from developing countries were being trained in the application of electronic data-processing techniques; it was intended to expand those activities to several other countries. He informed the Committee that in late August 1983 a group of experts would meet at United Nations Headquarters to provide advice and guidance on the use of such techniques in mineral exploration and development in the developing countries.

59. In discussing the report of the Secretary-General, several delegations noted that it provided a useful summary of recent developments and a broad overview of experience, in particular with regard to the developing countries. Other delegations, however, questioned the usefulness of such reports and expressed the view that they should not be commissioned in the future, since the information they

contained was available from other sources. In this context, the mandate of the Committee itself was questioned, as well as the role of the reports submitted to it.

60. Several delegations referred to the importance of remote-sensing activities and to programmes undertaken in their own countries. Remote sensing was an important tool in mineral exploration, in the monitoring of waterways and flood-prone areas and in the control of forest fires. One delegation mentioned that exploration from outer space should be undertaken only for the benefit of mankind as a whole, and that the distribution of benefits from space, one of them being the remote sensing of natural resources, should be based on the principle of guaranteed and equitable access to the data, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries.

61. Some delegations referred to seminars and workshops organized in their countries. In this regard, one representative mentioned a recent workshop on drilling in the mineral industry, organized by the United Nations and his Government, which was attended by more than 20 developing countries. His Government had recently published a study on new ground-survey techniques and airborne systems for mineral exploration. Another delegation mentioned a recently completed project on remote sensing within the framework of the International Geological Correlation Programme, carried out jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Union of Geological Sciences.

62. One delegation, agreeing that new techniques were in fact an important means of strengthening developing countries' capabilities, stressed that there was a need for close co-operation within the United Nations system to avoid duplication. Some delegations recommended that more training seminars and workshops on new techniques should be conducted by United Nations agencies. One delegation noted that its Government would actively support such activities, provided that the necessary funds came from the country and regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), otherwise the source of required funds would have to be clarified.

63. One representative, in referring to the section of the report dealing with geochemistry, mentioned that information on techniques useful for the tropical environment was missing; in the section on exploration geophysics, data on costs of geophysical instruments were not given. He added that the costs given for airborne surveys were high.

64. One representative from a developing country said that remote sensing had been used in his country since 1970, and that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had conducted a training seminar in the field. The geological programme of his country had been strengthened with the assistance of UNDP-financed activities, particularly in the areas of geophysics and geochemistry and the use of computer techniques.

Action by the Committee

Application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development

65. At the 169th meeting, on 16 June 1983, the representative of India introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.5), entitled "Application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development".
66. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines proposed that the words "in particular in relation to remote sensing", in the first preambular paragraph, be replaced by the words "in particular, but not limited to, remote sensing".
67. At the same meeting, the representative of France suggested the deletion of the words "with appreciation" which appeared after the words "Taking note" in the third preambular paragraph. The representative of France also proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 1, by which the words "to pay special attention to the application of computer techniques in developing countries in his report on new techniques to be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session" would be replaced by the words "to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session on the use of computer techniques, particularly in developing countries, in the exploration and development of natural resources".
68. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada suggested the insertion of the words "and institutions" after the words "invites Governments" in operative paragraph 3.
69. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.5, as orally amended (see chap. I, draft resolution IV).

Chapter V

UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION

70. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 167th meeting, on 14 June 1983. The Committee had before it the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration in 1982 (DP/1983/34).

71. In introducing the report, the Director of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration stated that the report described the progress made in field activities and in the evaluation of new project requests, as well as their effectiveness. In the report, attention was drawn to the efforts made to assist Governments to mobilize the technical and financial resources required for pre-investment follow-up. Also included in the report was information on the activities of the Fund in the field of geothermal exploration development.

72. The Director noted that the Fund had taken all the steps necessary to implement the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which in turn reflected the recommendations contained in the report of the 1981 Working Group of Government Experts (E/1981/23). He also noted that prudent project selection had led to the discovery of potential economic mineralization in six of the eight projects that had been completed to date. At the request of host Governments, the Fund was actively pursuing various options to continue feasibility and investment follow-up with potential investors in both the public and private sectors, as well as with international and regional financial institutions. Co-financing arrangements were also actively being pursued. In the geothermal sector, the Fund had progressed substantially in assessing potential projects that could be initiated at the exploratory drilling stage, thus reducing both costs and risks. In this endeavour, the Fund had been in contact with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Latin American Energy Organization for an exchange of information aimed at the complementarity of efforts in that field. He also noted that the technical expertise of the United Nations in the field of geothermal energy was being fully utilized. As reported to the Governing Council (see DP/1982/40), more effective co-operative mechanisms had been agreed to with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat. With the Fund moving ahead on these several fronts, the Director emphasized the need for increased financial support in order that the Fund could respond to the needs of the developing countries.

73. In the Committee's deliberations, several delegations stated they were encouraged by the progress reported, in spite of the Fund's financial shortcomings and modest size. The hope was expressed that the reported mineral successes could be brought to the production stage. The Fund was considered as vital for the developing countries, and the importance of carrying out feasibility studies was stressed, as was the pursuit of co-financing to augment the funding shortage. Another delegation called upon potential donors to increase their financial support in order to strengthen the Fund.

74. The Committee focused its deliberations on the reported results and their significance. In the light of the reported extremely high success ratio which was noted by several delegations, one delegation requested more specific information on

project results in view of the general use of the terms "promising" and "satisfactory". The representative of the Fund responded that there was a problem of space limitations with respect to including detailed technical descriptions in the annual report of the Administrator to the Governing Council. The representative did, however, provide brief verbal descriptions. The representative also stated that there was a major problem as regards the confidentiality of information. On many occasions it would be presumptuous to indicate grades and tonnages prior to the completion of a feasibility study. Also, to divulge the source of potential investors was to tread on confidential ground.

75. One delegation found the term "potentially economic mineralization" in the Fund's description of results to be vague. The representative of the Fund responded that that term had been inherited in its mandate (see DP/142) and while vague, since all mineralization was "potential" until such time as it was mined, it was a necessary working term. Another delegation inquired as to the follow-up to the Fund's first reported successful project, four years ago. In response, the representative of the Fund noted that there had been several problems encountered in attracting investment. However, renewed efforts were at present being made to obtain investment for that project. He further stated that mine development after discovery was always a slow process. He also felt it would be extremely difficult to make a feasibility approach or development assistance requests mandatory in so far as host Governments were concerned.

76. With regard to feasibility studies, one delegation inquired as to the terms of replenishment. The representative of the Fund responded that, in accordance with decision 81/24 of 23 June 1981 of the Governing Council of UNDP, repayment with interest was required. Another delegation enquired as to the scope of the Fund's feasibility studies. The representative of the Fund responded that such studies, carried out at the request of the Governments concerned, were a follow-up to a successful Fund exploration project, and while the Fund itself did not enter the production stage, the feasibility study would provide sufficient data for governmental and investment decisions to be made.

77. With regard to geothermal activities, one delegation noted the favourable prospects reported by the Fund and expressed the hope that there would be complementarity with the UNDP Energy Account. Another delegation requested information on the terms of replenishment, the stage at which the energy was assessed and the current thinking of the Fund on exploratory or production drilling. The representative of the Fund responded that the established replenishment formula, as recommended by the Working Group of Government Experts, was based on the value of produced power. The Fund would do the exploratory drilling, normally two or three large-diameter wells, but would not get involved in production drilling owing to its high cost and the onerous replenishment that might result.

78. Regarding co-ordination between the Fund and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, one delegation noted that the Committee, at its seventh session, had requested a report on that subject. It was noted that information on the co-operative mechanisms was presented to the Governing Council of UNDP in the annual report of the Administrator on the activities of the Fund in 1981 (DP.1982/40). Another delegation stated that it trusted that dynamic co-operation could be established between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Fund.

79. One delegation mentioned an equipment problem in its country, which was drawn to the attention of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

Action by the Committee

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

80. At the 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Belgium, Japan and the Sudan, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.10), entitled "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration".

81. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.10 (see chap. I, draft resolution V).

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

82. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 163rd meeting, on 10 June. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/C.7/1983/5).

83. The item was introduced by the Deputy Director, Minerals Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He noted that the report focused on recent trends in the legal and economic régimes governing the development of mineral and energy resources in developing countries that arose from the recession in most developed market economy countries which, as a group, were the most important consumers of mineral and energy commodities. He mentioned that in the report salient issues in investment legislation were described and note was taken of the emphasis given in a number of recent investment codes to investment incentives. In the field of mining legislation, the most notable changes related to the modernization of many pre-independence laws, the integration of mining law with other laws governing investment - such as taxation, customs, foreign exchange and investment legislation - and the promotion of economic development through mining investment. The latter issue was dealt with in provisions relating to preference for national contractors, shipping and processing. Environmental protection was also dealt with in greater detail. Since many developing countries had become interested in developing their vast offshore areas, a large number of new questions had come about concerning the regulation of offshore resources development.

84. Few new mining contracts had been concluded in recent years, which reflected the crisis of the mining industry of many countries. Information in the report was based on those contracts that had become operational, including agreements on possible projects for uranium, copper, iron ore, nickel, bauxite, coal and geothermal energy. The report focused on problems that had arisen in recent negotiations, notably those concerning management of and control over investment projects and their fiscal régime. Emphasis was also given to co-operation in mineral development between centrally planned economy countries and developing countries. Nationalization had occurred infrequently in recent years; that might have been the result of the growing conviction that renegotiation was a more flexible way to adapt long-term contracts to changing conditions. In international arbitration, recent awards had seemed to be more responsive to concerns raised by developing countries.

85. State enterprises accounted for a substantial share of mineral production. Their performance had become important for the effective exercise of permanent sovereignty by developing countries. Relations with foreign corporations had changed with the growing role played by State enterprises. The internal organization of State enterprises and the tax régime applicable to them had become issues of considerable interest in most developing countries; however, information on practices and experiences was still scarce.

86. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had expanded advisory services to Governments in the fields of natural resources and energy legislation, investment policies and investment contract negotiations. Since 1980, at the requests of Governments, more than 40 missions had been undertaken in the mineral

fields and about 20 in petroleum economics and legislation. The more than 25 outstanding requests indicated that there was a continuing need for that type of co-operation. Missions had covered such fields as mining and petroleum legislation and contract negotiation, policies for the development of offshore resources, environmental regulation, and investment and tax policies. Missions had also been undertaken to draft investment prospectuses describing a mineral deposit and the applicable investment régime, in order to attract investment, and they included activities related to the promotion of projects and the drafting of model mineral development agreements. Also, many requests concerned a review of existing legislation and assistance in elaborating new mining codes.

87. The Committee welcomed the information on recent developments in the field of permanent sovereignty over natural resources contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1983/5). Although one delegation noted that the report did not fully respond to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80 of 24 July 1981, several delegations emphasized the balance and the accuracy of the report in dealing with recent developments concerning permanent sovereignty. Other delegations pointed out that in future reports the role of the State sector should be given more emphasis. Permanent sovereignty was one of the most important issues for the developing countries. The usefulness of investment incentives was questioned by some delegations, while others stressed the need for such incentives to attract private capital.

88. It was noted that the new approaches used by transnational corporations in the mining sector, namely the control of operations of mines and processing plants without ownership, had not changed the basic, unequal relationship between such corporations and the developing countries. Some delegations mentioned that in the report priority appeared to have been given to foreign investment, whereas other approaches, including investment by the State and national enterprises should also be considered. One delegation noted that the work undertaken by the Commission on Transnational Corporations on the formulation of a code of conduct for transnational corporations should be the framework used for the formulation of contracts between developing countries and transnational corporations for the exploitation of natural resources. Turnkey contracts were not necessarily a good choice for developing countries, and construction companies, as well as suppliers of machinery, equipment and services from the developing countries, should participate in the development of projects, mines and plants.

89. Some delegations noted that permanent sovereignty over natural resources was compatible with private investment by transnational corporations; developing countries were free to decide in which form they wanted to explore for and develop their natural resources. Other delegations noted that transnational corporations were not really interested in the economic and social development of the developing countries; mining legislation should ensure the inalienable rights of countries.

90. Some delegations noted that a number of developing countries still had to struggle for their full exercise of permanent sovereignty over natural resources. In this context, they mentioned the rights of the peoples in the illegally occupied Territory of Namibia, as well as in Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories.

91. Some delegations noted that Governments were free to have public sector enterprises, private firms - funded by national or foreign capital - or a mix of public and private enterprises. Every country had the right and power to review and assess the acceptability and application of foreign investment.

92. Many delegations supported the proposal made in the Secretary-General's report to prepare a draft model agreement and negotiating manual and to undertake a global survey of new mining legislation. Some delegations noted that developing countries needed assistance in the field of offshore mineral development policies and legislation. Other delegations questioned this proposal and referred to the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on a code of conduct for transnational corporations. Co-operation among developing countries should be strengthened in all aspects of mineral development.

93. Several delegations discussed the role of State enterprises, in particular their role in marketing and financing arrangements. Ownership by the State was not necessarily an obstacle to investment; the recent lack of investment was due partly to the low level of prices for mineral commodities.

94. One delegation noted that, in the future, the report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources should contain more details on the technical assistance and mineral development co-operation between centrally planned economy countries and developing countries.

Action by the Committee

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

95. At the 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983, the representative of Mexico, in behalf of Mexico, Uganda and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.3/Rev.1), entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources", 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,

"Recognizing the problems caused by the international economic crisis to all countries, in particular to the developing countries,

"Confirming the need for developing countries to maximize their benefits from the exploration, exploitation and processing of their natural resources in order to strengthen and integrate their economic development,

"Having noted the comments of the Committee on Natural Resources 1/ on the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, 2/

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19), chap. VI.

2/ E/C.7/1983/5.

'1. Requests the Committee on Natural Resources to discuss, at its ninth session, ways and means of ensuring the full exercise by all countries, in particular the developing countries, of their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, taking into account the international economic situation and international co-operation, specifically in the following aspects:

'(a) Strengthening of national capabilities to finance and manage the exploration, exploitation and processing of natural resources for the national benefit;

'(b) Promotion of investments in natural resources in line with basic priorities;

'(c) Identification of new possibilities for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of natural resources;

'(d) Conservation of natural resources;

'(e) Environment and natural resources;

'3. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the report mentioned in Economic and Social Council resolution 2120 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, to take into account the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above;

'4. Reaffirms the importance of the on-going work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in developing a code of conduct on transnational corporations as the appropriate framework for contracts between developing countries and transnational corporations for the exploitation and transformation of the natural resources of the developing countries."

96. At the same time, the representative of Mexico orally revised the draft resolution, on behalf of the sponsors. The revisions were as follows:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the words "caused by the international economic crisis to all countries" were replaced by the words "caused by the present international economic situation to most countries";

(b) The second and third preambular paragraphs were revised to read:

"Noting the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to maximize their benefits from the exploration, exploitation and processing of their natural resources in order to strengthen their economic development,

"Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources and the comments of the Committee on Natural Resources thereon,";

(c) Operative paragraph 1 was revised to read:

"1. Requests the Committee on Natural Resources to continue to discuss, at its ninth session, the item of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, including, inter alia:";

(d) Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 were revised to read:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a further report on the subject of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above and the comments made by the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session;

"3. Affirms in this context the importance of the ongoing work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on a code of conduct for transnational corporations, as it relates to natural resources."

97. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.3/Rev.1, as orally revised (see chap. I, draft resolution VI).

98. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and Mexico.

Chapter VII

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

99. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 164th and 165th meetings, on 13 June 1983.

100. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in his opening statement, drew attention to the role and importance of water resources development in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Mar del Plata Action Plan, as well as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. He pointed out that while considerable progress was being made by developing countries with the support provided through multilateral and bilateral co-operation, those developments were not sufficient to meet the projected global challenges.

101. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination introduced the report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in the context of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/C.7/1983/11). He stated that the report had been prepared, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80 of 24 July 1981, in close consultation with the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations concerned through the Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). He drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80, the report was intended to facilitate the deliberations of the Committee in the context of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy. Hence, the Committee might wish to include its views in its report to the Economic and Social Council, for transmittal to the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Although the Strategy did not contain a chapter specifically devoted to water resources, the recommendations in the Mar del Plata Action Plan had been reflected implicitly and explicitly in various parts of the Strategy.

102. He indicated that the report provided a review and appraisal of the progress made at the national level in the field of water resources development and, at the same time, contained an analysis of prospects at the end of the present decade. It also covered the various sectoral uses of water, such as drinking water supply and sanitation, and water for agriculture, industry and hydropower, and discussed water management, including assessment of water resources; water policy, planning and administration; shared water resources development; education, training and research; technical co-operation among developing countries; and financing. In addition, it contained highlights of questions relating to water resources development in the least developed, most seriously affected, developing island and land-locked developing countries. Specific regional issues and measures were also discussed in the report. The report further provided indications of the scale of the requirements of developing countries in terms of investment needs, manpower development, education and training, and institutional and infrastructural requirements for the accelerated development of water resources to meet the goals

and objectives of the International Development Strategy. In this connection, it was also pointed out in the report that investment in the development of water resources should not be viewed as being in competition with the other sectors of economic development, since it led to increased agricultural and food production, improved security from floods and drought disasters, promotion of environmental protection, improved health and, in fact, improvement in many other sectors of economic and social development.

103. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that as part of their determined efforts to implement the Mar del Plata Action Plan within the constraints of national circumstances and conditions, developing countries were making considerable progress in advancing water resources development and management. In this context, many of them had either created or were in the process of creating mechanisms for co-ordination at the national level involving all national water interests, in addition to the existing specialized committees, such as those established under the International Hydrological Programme, the Operational Hydrological Programme and the national action committees for the Decade.

104. The Assistant Secretary-General emphasized the need for Governments to take steps to formulate a steady flow of bankable project proposals. He also stressed the need for the compilation of information on the activities of bilateral aid programmes and international and regional organizations in relation to water resources development, with a view to examining possible ways of increasing financing flows and improving the terms and conditions on which financing was provided. This information could then be disseminated to countries and international organizations. Finally, he stressed the importance for Governments to transform the various recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan into a set of well-formulated programmes and projects.

105. Some delegations noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General, stating that it presented a comprehensive picture of the present situation in the development of water resources in developing countries in relation to the various aspects of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The report gave indications of the prospects and the magnitude of the efforts required in the future if the objectives envisaged in the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade were to be met. Some delegations expressed concern that the scale of action required for the development of water resources, in keeping with the economic development objectives envisaged in the International Development Strategy, remained massive in terms of investment needs, manpower development, planning and policy formulation, investigation and assessment, and institutional and infrastructural requirements. They noted that massive financial resources, four to eight times larger than those available at present, would be needed in the coming years to achieve the goals and objectives that had been set in terms of new projects and activities, not including the recurrent costs for project operation and management. In this regard, the placing of emphasis on appropriate low-cost technologies merited serious consideration. Some delegations agreed with the view that water resources development should not be perceived as a narrow sectoral activity since it provided the basis for the development of agriculture, industry and energy and would raise the quality of life in developing countries. The need for the integration of water resources development into overall economic planning was also emphasized.

106. One delegation felt that while an attempt had been made in the report to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, it did not provide the necessary basis for a comparison with the progress achieved in previous years.

107. Some delegations felt that the Committee could emphasize the need for increased bilateral and multilateral flows for the development of water resources and urged Governments to formulate concrete plans and policies. Several delegations drew attention to the need to develop small- and medium-scale projects for the exploitation of water resources for agricultural, hydropower and other uses.

108. With reference to shared water resources, one representative observed that while the information was accurate, all steps taken by his Government did not constitute a follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the field of shared water resources.

109. Some delegations emphasized the continued importance of and need for technical co-operation to assist developing countries. At the same time, it was noted that technical co-operation among developing countries had an important role to play in the development of water resources. In this connection, one representative pointed out that his country had convened, at Zagreb in May 1982, a colloquium on technical co-operation among developing countries for ground-water resources development. The participants at the colloquium had agreed that in connection with the development of ground water, there was an increasing need for the establishment of a data base, including a roster of expertise on the subject, and for the dissemination of information to developing countries. They had also agreed that there was a need for an international centre to carry out the information function and that the existing centre at Zagreb should serve as the international centre in view of its competence in the field. In this respect, there was the possibility that the Government of Yugoslavia would provide the necessary working conditions for such an international technical unit to be established within its Centre for Waters at Zagreb, and that the Secretary-General had been requested to study the matter in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, especially with regard to the review of possible financial sources for non-local cost components, and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984. In connection with regional activities on ground water, one delegation referred to the Seminar of the Economic Commission for Europe on Ground-water Protection Strategies and Practices, which was to be held at Athens in October 1983.

110. Several delegations informed the Committee of the progress being made in their respective countries in water resources development and management, and provided details of the present situation in respect of water resources assessment, institution-building, training and development, and management in such sectoral areas as irrigation, water supply and sanitation, industry and hydropower.

111. Several delegations indicated that, given the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General, they were not in a position to participate in the deliberations of the Committee concerning this item. They would thus reserve their position until the second regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council.

112. In response to questions raised, the representative of the Secretariat provided additional information concerning arrangements for the follow-up to the

Mar del Plata Action Plan, indicating in particular that in 1981 the Committee on Natural Resources had carried out a comprehensive review of the progress made at the national and global levels. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80, the Committee would also undertake a major review in 1985, at which time it would carry out a mid-period review of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980, a comprehensive review of the progress made at the national level within the framework of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, as well as a review of current and future activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of water resources. In addition, the Committee would consider proposals for a comprehensive approach, as well as for programmes in education and training, in the field of water resources in developing countries.

113. It was noted that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/80, the report before the Committee had been prepared on the basis of the information available within the system related to the progress being made by Governments in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. However, with respect to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, new information collected by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of the Steering Committee was analysed and included in the section of the report on this subject. The representatives of WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) informed the Committee of important activities that had been undertaken by their organizations since its seventh session.

Action by the Committee

114. At the 170th meeting, on 17 June 1983, the representative of Greece, on behalf of Greece and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.8), entitled "Water resources development: progress and prospects in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade". At the same time, he orally revised the draft resolution, on behalf of the sponsors, to read as follows:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the words "paragraph 4 of section VI of" were inserted before the words "its resolution 1981/80";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the word "need" was revised to read "needs";

(c) In operative paragraph 13, the words "Governments of" were inserted before the words "developing countries";

(d) In operative paragraphs 14 and 18, the word "countries" was replaced by the word "Governments";

(e) In operative paragraph 23, the words "during its session in 1984" were revised to read "at its second regular session of 1984".

115. At the same meeting, the Chairman proposed the replacement, in operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution, of the words "should give due consideration to structural, as well as non-structural measures, such as early warning and forecasting systems, and integrate projects for flood- and drought-loss management in overall plans for the development of water resources" by the words "should give high priority to early-warning and forecasting systems, as well as to structural

and other non-structural measures, and integrate projects for flood- and drought-loss management in overall plans for the development of water resources".

116. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada proposed the replacement, in operative paragraph 21, of the words "to provide substantial assistance to developing countries and play" by the words "intensify their".

117. At the same meeting, the representative of India proposed the insertion, in operative paragraph 22, of the words "Governments of developing" before the word "countries"; the replacement, in the same paragraph, of the word "compile" by the words "co-operate among themselves and with the United Nations system in compiling"; and the replacement of the word "arrange" by the word "arranging".

118. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.8, as orally revised and amended during the discussion (see chap. I, draft resolution VII).

Chapter VIII

UTILIZATION OF SUBSURFACE SPACE

119. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 166th and 167th meetings, on 14 June 1983. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of subsurface space and its potential in developing countries (E/C.7/1983/7).

120. The report was introduced by the Chief of the Water Resources Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He first briefly described the activities involved in the preparation of the report and then outlined the principal uses of subsurface space, as covered in the report. With respect to food storage, he noted that the advantages of using underground facilities as opposed to above-surface storage had been pointed out in the report and stressed that, to be competitive with conventional storage, underground storage should cost less than approximately \$US 400 per ton. Basically, decisions to go underground for the storage of food in developing countries would depend on (a) comparative costs; (b) availability of suitable sites; and (c) availability of appropriate technologies. Comprehensive and detailed information on underground storage construction techniques and related experience in developing countries was required for further evaluation of possibilities in this sphere.

121. As regards water storage, a distinction was to be made between the recharging of existing and known aquifers and the use of caverns in hard rock formations. The use of water storage caverns might, at times, be cheaper than the conventional above-ground concrete and steel tanks - which were also subject to evaporation losses - but cost factors would have to determine the feasibility and advisability of underground storage in developing countries.

122. With respect to energy production and utilization, a distinction should be made between the possible storage of oil and gas, for which considerable experience existed in industrialized countries, and the production and distribution of energy underground in rock chambers. The cost of sharing oil and gas resources would depend largely on the extent to which excavation and drilling might be required, as opposed to utilizing salt domes. The location of hydroelectric power plants underground might well have potential for developing countries but it was unlikely that the use of underground nuclear reactors would have much application in developing countries in the foreseeable future.

123. With respect to transportation systems, first and foremost subway systems, he pointed out that the basic planning alone for such systems required about five years, while the time required for the completion of underground transportation networks was approximately 30 years. Taking into account the relatively high cost for such systems, it might be appropriate for developing countries to plan ahead, both technically and financially and, in particular, to set aside the underground space that would be required in due course for the construction of the systems. In that respect, a growing number of major cities in developing countries would be expected to have a population in excess of 10 million by the year 2000, making an underground transport system a relevant issue in such instances. It was suggested that the criteria for introducing appropriate construction methods and techniques, including the use of local labour and materials, should be investigated as soon as

possible so that maximum savings in construction costs could be achieved and maintenance and operation costs reduced to the extent possible.

124. With regard to public utilities, which generally included drinking water, waste-water and sewerage facilities, electricity, gas and telephone communications, the space underneath roads and streets was increasingly occupied by supply lines. With the high increase in urban population expected in many developing countries during the next two decades or so, conditions in that respect would worsen and the possibility of building multi-purpose utility tunnels in which all public utilities shared a single corridor could well be envisaged. The Chief of the Water Resources Branch recalled that special tunnels for the transport of untreated water were common in many parts of the world, while the use of tunnels for the distribution of treated water was not so common. The experience already gained in some developed countries, such as Japan and Sweden, could be investigated with a view to seeing the extent to which the location of utilities underground in special tunnels for major cities and urban centres in developing countries might be a technically and economically feasible proposition.

125. With regard to planning of subsurface space, it had been suggested in the report that policy-makers should familiarize themselves with the potential uses of the subsurface space in their areas and with technology that was competitive with surface techniques. Basically, there was a need to create a general awareness among planners and developers that subsurface space was available for planning purposes. Since the planning process required essential basic data on land use, geology, availability for the intended purposes and the like, it was important that the data should be available to satisfy the requirements of the various groups that were involved with planning: financial organizations, social agencies and energy planners. Among the important aspects with respect to the planning process in developing countries were the transfer and adaptation of imported technology, the absorption of technical know-how, assessment of bidding and contract conditions, environmental factors, local and national productivity, and special research and development programmes that focused on the needs of developing countries.

126. With respect to financing the development of subsurface space, detailed cost studies would be required to determine the kinds of loans needed to ensure completion. The availability of adequate technical and economic data would be particularly relevant since there was a paucity of cost data on subsurface space utilization.

127. In conclusion, there was a need for the dissemination of information on the potential of subsurface space and on the positive experiences already undergone in the various sectors referred to. The United Nations and its specialized agencies could play an important role in providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries and by making information available on (a) the potential of subsurface space; (b) the best means and appropriate cost of exploiting that potential; (c) planning and the incorporation of subsurface space development into the plans of existing centres; (d) assessment of direct environmental and social costs and the benefits of locating facilities underground; (e) transfer of technology and use of appropriate construction techniques; and (f) training.

128. In the discussion that followed, one representative indicated that his Government viewed the use of subsurface space as a necessity, both in terms of improving the standard of living of the population and of making the best use of available space in the densely populated islands close to the mainland. A national

report outlining the significant uses of subsurface space in his country was distributed to participants.

129. One observer indicated the appreciation of his Government at being able to act as host to the United Nations workshop held in October 1982 in connection with the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1983/7). He felt that there was an important role for the United Nations to play in helping to make planners, architects and policy-makers in developing countries aware of the opportunities offered by the utilization of subsurface space. His Government, for its part, would continue to explore the optimal use of subsurface space in developing countries in line with the recommendations made by the workshop. He expressed the hope that the Committee would see fit to endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General. In order to provide new orientation to the work of the Committee, he suggested that new topics, such as the use of subsurface space, could be introduced into the agenda of the Committee from time to time.

130. One representative indicated his difficulty in understanding the presentation of the information in the Secretary-General's report: a great variety of topics had been covered in a very short report. He suggested that organizations that were better equipped to deal with some of the issues should be entrusted with the task of following up on related developments; for example, FAO, with respect to underground food storage. He pointed out that the problem of water storage could be divided into two main issues: the question of replenishing ground-water aquifers, which was a straightforward technical problem, and the question of the storage of water in rock formations, which might present relatively serious problems in developing countries. He felt that the section of the report dealing with energy production and utilization involved a mixture of problems, unrelated to one another, such as the storage of oil and gas underground which was a common technological development in both developed and developing countries, and the question of underground hydroelectric power plants and nuclear reactors which did not appear to be an issue of relevance to developing countries. He felt that the combination of those issues in one section would create confusion and might be misleading. As regards transportation systems, he wondered why that issue had been raised, since the technology for the planning and development of subway systems was perfectly easily acquired and did not present any special problems. As far as planning was concerned, he suggested that some of the statements made in the report with respect to planning requirements were somewhat obvious, and the same could be said for the chapter dealing with financing; he pointed out that detailed cost studies were always required for any kind of loan and were not specific to the area of subsurface space development. In concluding his remarks, he suggested that consideration of the various topics covered under one heading created undue difficulties which might better be addressed through the treatment of the various sectors concerned in other reports dealing, respectively, with food, water and energy storage and utilization.

131. Another representative expressed strong support for the findings of the report and regretted that the possibilities for oil and gas storage in salt domes had been omitted from consideration. He suggested that four main issues in the development of subsurface space technology were (a) availability of information; (b) a suitable geotechnical data base; (c) information of implementation of related schemes; and (d) the inclusion of subsurface space utilization in comprehensive planning.

132. Two delegations were especially interested in cost figures for subsurface space projects and regretted that the report did not contain more examples of cost data for the various activities referred to.

133. Two other delegations considered that the information contained in the report was useful and supported the suggestion that the United Nations system could be a viable channel for the dissemination of information on the potential users of subsurface space and on related technologies and cost data. The scope for the use of underground space was limited economically and there was the need for training in developing countries in those fields.

134. The representative of UNESCO indicated the willingness of his Organization to provide support for subsurface space activities and indicated that UNESCO had, in fact, already issued a questionnaire, which had been sent to developing countries and which covered some of the points raised in the discussion.

135. In providing clarification on some of the queries raised, the representative of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development indicated that the limitations regarding the length of the report necessarily restricted the amount of information that could be made available, but that additional data could be found in the special issue of the journal Underground Space, dated February-April 1983, which had been distributed to participants and which contained a number of the papers presented at the workshop in Sweden (see E/C.7/1983/7, para. 3).

Action by the Committee

Utilization of subsurface space

136. At the 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Belgium, India, Japan and Uganda, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.9), entitled "Utilization of subsurface space".

137. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed the replacement of the word "promote", in operative paragraph 1, by the words "make known the scope with respect to".

138. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution by replacing the word "efforts" by the words "the development and utilization of subsurface space and the activities of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system".

139. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.9, as orally revised and amended (see chap. I, draft resolution VIII).

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

140. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 165th and 166th meetings, on 13 and 14 June 1983. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on programme evaluation for the period 1976-1979: mineral resources (E/AC.51/1982/5) and co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources: minerals (E/C.7/1983/12). The former report was considered in response to a request made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-second session. 15/

141. In introducing the subject, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs suggested that co-ordination could be addressed in terms of three related questions: (a) Did the activities of the United Nations system, taken as a whole, respond to the needs and priorities of Member States expressed individually and intergovernmentally?; (b) Did the existing distribution of activities reflect a clear division of responsibilities and avoid unproductive duplication and overlap?; and (c) Was the level of formal co-ordination adequate to ensure effective work? He noted that in the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of programmes in the field of minerals (E/C.7/1983/12) an attempt was made to provide information that would help the Committee to deal with those questions. He observed that mineral resources was an area in which there was no broad set of priorities against which activities could be compared and, because the number of organizations with heavy involvement in the field was small, there appeared to be no significant duplication nor overlapping.

142. In introducing the report on programme evaluation (E/AC.51/1982/5), the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination described the purpose of the study, which was to improve the design of activities in the minerals field, provide periodic feedback to intergovernmental bodies on the value and impact of the programme and its relevance, and provide feedback to programme managers for use in the decision-making process. Regarding the scope of the study, the Assistant Secretary-General explained that the report covered four main areas of activity in non-fuel minerals. Those areas were information and projections, exploration, production and processing, and institution-building. An attempt was made in the report to evaluate research reports and analytical studies, seminars and workshops and 51 technical co-operation projects in the field of minerals in 22 countries. He noted further that for the first time in this type of evaluation the activities of four regional commissions (the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia) had been included, as had the relevant activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

143. The study, which examined end-user assessment of the utility, quality and impact of selected activities at the level of the minerals sector and at the

national level, found a wide range of response to most measures, particularly items concerned with the impact of United Nations programmes at the national level. Project ratings were, however, uniformly high. Other findings revealed deficiencies in programme planning and design, designated end-users and distribution of documents. Delays in the implementation of and follow-up to technical co-operation projects were also noted. One of the major findings in the report was the absence of any means for dealing systematically with the joint planning or co-ordination of substantive issues in the minerals area which might be of interest to more than one organization within the United Nations system.

144. The Assistant Secretary-General also stated that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at its twenty-second session, had felt that the report would have an impact on the work of the Committee on Natural Resources, and had requested that its attention be drawn to the need to specify the kind of United Nations activity which could be expected to contribute to policy-making and to identify more precisely end-users and anticipated uses. ^{15/} In the view of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the question of co-ordination of activities in the area of mineral resources had to be addressed at the intergovernmental, as well as the organizational level. To this end, it had requested the Committee on Natural Resources to review the matter in order to ensure effective co-ordination at the intergovernmental level.

145. The Assistant Secretary-General drew attention to the request of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for formal reactions to the recommendations contained in its report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly ^{16/} but suggested that the Committee might wish to focus more particularly on those recommendations dealing with the minerals sector and the possibility of instituting periodic reviews of co-ordination.

146. Several delegations felt that the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of programmes (E/C.7/1983/12), did not enable them seriously to consider the question. In particular, the tables in the report contained errors, were not easy to comprehend and included terminology and methodology which were specialized and not well explained. One delegation requested that in future, such reports should contain a glossary of the technical programme planning terminology and more careful explanations of methodology. The inclusion of uranium in the analysis, which was a study of non-fuel minerals, was questioned. A number of delegations found it difficult to determine from the tables whether there was duplication of effort and overlapping by organizations of the United Nations system.

147. One delegation stated that the report had been received too late for careful examination and although welcoming further explanations of the report by the representative of the Secretariat, suggested that it would have been preferable to have included those explanations in the text of the report itself.

148. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on programme evaluation (E/AC.51/1982/5), the clarity of the report and its findings was commended. One delegation expressed satisfaction with the positive assessment of the seminars evaluated, citing in particular the response of participants in the Seminar on the Development Potential of Pre-Cambrian Mineral Deposits, held at Moscow in 1979. The same delegation noted that since that time, equally successful seminars had been held at Tashkent for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 1980 and for the Economic Commission for Africa in 1981 and that its Government would continue to act as host to such seminars. That delegation

acknowledged that both the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Committee on Natural Resources should be jointly involved in the question of co-ordination of activities but expressed the view that the institution of any mechanism for co-ordination should take place within the existing bureaucratic framework and not by establishing a new unit or bringing in additional consultant staff.

149. A number of delegations noted from paragraphs 159 and 160 of the report that there appeared to be no systematic means within the Secretariat for identifying and treating substantive issues and problems related to minerals and of interest to several organizational units, nor any institutional device for addressing the broader issues linking the minerals sector to other sectors.

150. Delegations agreed that the information as presented did not provide evidence of particular problems of co-ordination in the area of mineral resources and noted that the evaluation of activities related to minerals had suggested that the absence of overt problems did not mean that co-ordination was at an acceptable level. In view of the general opinion that co-ordination of activities was one of the most important functions of the Committee, its discussion centred on how best it could discharge that function in the future.

151. The view was expressed that co-ordination had to be seen from two different perspectives. While administrative co-ordination in the sense of ensuring sound programme planning and management was important, of perhaps more importance was co-ordination at the policy level. It was observed that the attainment of coherence of policies was a problem that individual Governments had to confront and that that process could be assisted by general policy directions at the intergovernmental level.

152. One delegation noted that as part of its normal work, it was expected to consider proposals for the medium-term plan of the United Nations. It had not been able to do so properly for the plan for the period 1984-1989 because of delays in the distribution of the documentation. Delegations agreed that, as a matter of principle, the plan should provide the necessary policy guidance in the area of natural resources, particularly in relation to mineral resources, and for that purpose the Committee should consider revisions to the medium-term plan in the area of natural resources. A representative of the Secretariat noted that in several related areas, including energy, marine affairs and science and technology, medium-term plan proposals had included information on related activities found elsewhere in the plan, as well as in the plans and programmes of the specialized agencies. That information might also be helpful to the Committee in considering revisions to the plan.

153. For co-ordination in the implementation of programmes, the Committee noted that one recommendation resulting from the consideration of the evaluation of mineral activities by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) should take steps through existing co-ordination machinery to seek enhanced co-operation in the area of mineral resources. It was noted that that recommendation had not yet been implemented, but some delegations were of the opinion that the potential positive results of enhanced co-ordination, including the promotion of joint activities through joint planning and programming, were sufficiently high for ACC to give attention to the question. Several substantive areas, such as geological surveys and policy and planning, seemed to have sufficient activities and the number of organizations

involved was large enough to merit such an effort. A number of possible institutional vehicles for co-ordination were mentioned, although one representative stated that the existing mechanisms within ACC seemed to be adequate.

Action by the Committee

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

154. At the 170th meeting, on 17 June 1983, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1983/L.7), entitled "Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources". At the same time, he orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) By deleting the second preambular paragraph which read:

"Aware that these terms of reference were discussed by the Committee on Natural Resources at its first session in 1971";

(b) By revising the words "an essential part of this guidance is", in the fifth preambular paragraph, to read "part of this guidance is on";

(c) By adding, to the end of operative paragraph 2, the words "in particular to consider how best to avoid duplication of responsibility and effort within the Secretariat", and by reversing the order of operative paragraphs 2 and 3;

(d) By deleting operative paragraph 4 which read:

"Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the documentation for its ninth session is made available to all members of the Committee, in all languages, not less than six weeks before the commencement of the session."

155. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1983/L.7, as orally revised (see chap. I, draft resolution IX).

156. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources: minerals" (E/C.7/1983/12) (see chap. I, para. 3, decision 8/2).

Chapter X

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

157. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a list of agenda items, together with the documentation to be submitted (E/C.7/1983/L.1).

158. The attention of the Committee was drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, 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.

159. In resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council should also be streamlined in order to enable them to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them.

Action by the Committee

160. At its 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983, the Committee, on the proposal by the Chairman, decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of draft decision in which it would take note of the report of the Committee on its eighth session and approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its ninth session, as completed in the light of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee (see chap. I, para. 2, draft decision).

Chapter XI

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

161. The Committee on Natural Resources held its eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 17 June 1983, during which it held 13 meetings (159th to 171st meetings), as well as a number of informal meetings.

162. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Sir Egerton Richardson (Jamaica).

B. Membership and attendance

163. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 A (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Committee is composed of 54 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Five seats from the Group of Asian States and two seats from the Group of Eastern European States remain to be filled.

164. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uganda, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

165. The following State Member of the United Nations participated as an observer: Sweden.

166. The following non-Member State maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations was represented as an observer: Holy See.

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

168. The following United Nations organizations, bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank and World Meteorological Organization.

169. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

170. The following intergovernmental organization was represented by an observer: League of Arab States.

171. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Chamber of Commerce and Bahá'i International Community.

C. Election of officers

172. At its 159th and 165th meetings, on 8 and 13 June 1983, the Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairman: Daniel D. C. Don Nanjira (Kenya)

Vice-Chairmen: Wolfgang Jung (German Democratic Republic)
Yannis Kinnas (Greece)
S. K. Mukerjee (India)

Rapporteur: Makoto Wakasugi (Japan)

D. Agenda and documentation

173. At its 159th meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda for the session (E/C.7/1983/1 and Corr.1), which is reproduced in annex I below.

174. The documentation before the Committee at its eighth session is listed in annex II below.

E. Organization of the work of the Committee

175. At the 170th meeting, on 17 June 1983, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft decision (E/C.7/1983/L.12), entitled "Future development of the work of the Committee".

176. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally corrected (see chap. I, para. 3, draft decision 8/1).

Chapter XII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

177. At its 171st meeting, on 17 June 1983, the Committee considered the draft report on its eighth session (E/C.7/1983/L.2 and Add.1-8) and adopted it, as orally amended during the discussion.

Notes

1/ E/C.7/1983/4.

2/ E/C.7/1983/9.

3/ E/C.7/1983/10.

4/ E/C.7/1983/3.

5/ DP/1983/34.

6/ E/C.7/1983/5.

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19), chap. VI.

8/ See 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, para. 15.

9/ E/C.7/1983/11.

10/ E/C.7/1983/7.

11/ E/C.7/1983/12.

12/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19).

13/ See also agenda item 6. The report of the Secretary-General listed thereunder will cover progress with regard to the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

14/ E/C.7/1983/12.

15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh session, Supplement No. 38 (A/37/38), para. 369.

16/ Ibid., paras. 369-374.

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION

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 mineral production and consumption
4. Energy resources: trends and salient issues, including problems of transfer of technology
5. New techniques, including remote sensing for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources
6. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
7. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources
8. Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan
9. Utilization of subsurface space
10. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources
 - (a) Current and planned activities of the United Nations system in the field of non-fuel minerals
 - (b) Programme evaluation for the period 1976-1979: mineral resources
11. Draft provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee
12. Adoption of the report of the Committee

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

<u>Document</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/1983/1 and Corr.1	2	Provisional agenda for the eighth session
E/C.7/1983/2	3	New locations for exploration for phosphate rock in the developing countries: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/3	5	New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/4	3	Prospects for the development of non-metallic minerals: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/5	7	Permanent sovereignty over natural resources: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/6	3	Mineral resources: survey of investments in mining: Note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/7	9	Utilization of subsurface space and its potential in developing countries: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/8	3	Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to rare metals: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/9	3	Standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/10	4	Trends and salient issues in energy: Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1983/11	8	Progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in the context of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade: Report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.7/1983/12	10	Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources: minerals: Report of the Secretary-General
A/37/38	10	Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-second session
DP/1983/34	6	United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration: Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
E/AC.51/1982/5	10	Programme evaluation for the period 1976-1979: mineral resources: Report of the Secretary General
E/C.7/1983/L.1	11	Draft provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee: Note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1983/L.2 and Add.1-8	12	Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/1983/L.3/Rev.1	7	Mexico, Uganda and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.4	3 (d)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.5	5	India: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.6	3 (a)	German Democratic Republic: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.7	10	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.8	8	Greece and Yugoslavia: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.9	9	India, Japan and Uganda: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.10	6	Japan: draft resolution
E/C.7/1983/L.11	4	Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
E/C.7/1983/L.12	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

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