

Countries,¹¹¹ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,¹¹²

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 40/208 of 17 December 1985 and 45/209 of 21 December 1990 on the development of the energy resources of developing countries,

Recalling further its resolutions 1987/10 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/6 of 22 May 1989,

Recognizing that the revitalization of economic growth and development of developing countries and the integration of economies in transition into the world economy may lead in certain cases to an increase in energy demand,

Recognizing also that in view of increased energy demand, new and additional investments and strengthened energy policies, including conservation and efficient management of energy resources, will be needed to prevent energy shortages,

Concerned that energy shortages in developing countries are causing a serious disruption of economic activities,

Affirming that the exploitation of energy sources in developing countries, including available hydropower potential and other sources of energy, if adequately developed with appropriate capital and technological inputs, could contribute to the solution of energy shortages in those countries,

Reaffirming that the developing countries have the primary responsibility for their strategies and policies for the exploration and development of their energy resources, including the need to mobilize financial resources, internal and external, in order to develop their national technical skills and capabilities in the energy sector,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on energy resources;¹¹³

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations system to intensify its efforts to promote the international exchange of experience and knowledge and the flow of efficient technologies, especially new and emerging ones, to developing countries;

3. *Acknowledges* the need to facilitate access for developing countries to energy-efficient technologies and research and, in that context, calls upon the United Nations system and developed countries to support the development of national endeavours of developing countries, as well as regional and interregional cooperation;

4. *Calls upon* the international community, including developed countries, to make technology and financial resources available to the developing countries to enable them to fully develop their potential capability in

the field of new and renewable sources of energy, including their vast hydropower potential;

5. *Urges* multilateral and regional financial institutions, as well as donor countries, to allocate financial resources to promote programmes and technical cooperation projects in support of the development of energy resources in the developing countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on trends and salient issues in energy, containing information on ways and means of enhancing energy efficiency and conservation and of promoting the development of economically viable energy resources, and containing relevant conclusions and recommendations of international and regional seminars, workshops and conferences, organized by the United Nations, that address energy issues;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means by which the energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade could correspond;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a report on programmes under way and planned for human resources development in the field of energy, including measures for required institutional strengthening through advisory services, on-the-job training, external fellowships and comprehensive training packages.

32nd plenary meeting
26 July 1991

1991/87. Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,¹¹⁴ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,¹¹⁵

Recalling also its resolutions 1985/47 of 25 July 1985, 1987/8 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/5 of 22 May 1989 concerning mineral resources,

Stressing the significance of mineral resources in the economic and social development of the developing countries,

Reaffirming the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

¹¹¹ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

¹¹² General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

¹¹³ E/C.7/1991/9, E/C.7/1991/12 and E/C.7/1991/13.

¹¹⁴ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

¹¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Recognizing the need for substantial flows of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to enable them to explore and develop their mineral resources,

Acknowledging the important role that the United Nations system can play in the field of mineral resources through, *inter alia*, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the invaluable impact of small-scale mining on the economic and social development process of the developing countries and its identification as an economic activity providing significant employment opportunities,

Aware of the need to balance small-scale mining operations with the improvement of social working conditions and benefits and the consideration of health and safety hazards,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends"¹¹⁶ and "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities";¹¹⁷

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sectors;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in that report information on existing programmes—governmental, intergovernmental and, to the extent possible, private—as well as proposals for investment possibilities in developing countries to support the efforts of developing countries in securing the investments they require for the development of their mineral resources;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in that report the conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars related to mineral resources, in particular the Conference on Mining and Environment, held in Berlin in June 1991, and information on the feasibility of establishing geological information systems in developing countries to assist in the development of mineral resources, for consideration and follow-up action by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Natural Resources on recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding the activities of enterprises in this area, as well as on progress made in the establishment of demonstration and training projects for the transfer of small-scale mining technology and methods and on national approaches and

international cooperation for maximizing the benefits of small-scale mining for economic and social development in developing countries; the report should include information on the economic contribution of women in small-scale mining.

32nd plenary meeting
26 July 1991

1991/88. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,¹¹⁸ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,¹¹⁹

Recalling also its resolutions 1987/12 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/10 of 22 May 1989,

Reaffirming that all countries, in particular developing countries, have the inherent and sovereign right to determine freely the use of their natural resources,

Stressing the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to make the optimum use of their natural resources in order to strengthen and promote their economic and social development,

Concerned about the present international economic situation, in particular its impact on developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources;¹²⁰

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

3. *Encourages* the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat to continue to play an active role in providing advisory services to Governments, at their request, to support them in exercising their inalienable right of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, *inter alia*, in exploring for, developing and managing their natural resources, as well as advisory services for policy and planning, legislation and taxation, contract negotiation and contract auditing and management, and investment promotion and financing, and encourages the Department to continue to organize seminars that bring together experts and representatives of international companies and developing countries;

4. *Takes note* of the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, which is the focal point for matters related to transnational corporations and which is concerned with the whole range of issues that arise in dealing with relations between host coun-

¹¹⁶ E/C.7/1991/4.

¹¹⁷ E/C.7/1991/5.

¹¹⁸ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

¹¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

¹²⁰ E/C.7/1991/6.