

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 that 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.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/58. 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 the conservation of energy,

Taking into account the experience in the use of subsurface space already gained 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,³²

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen support mechanisms in the United Nations for making 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 competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in this area, for the consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/59. 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 set forth in Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970,

Bearing in mind the debates held in 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 that guidance relates in part to 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 was again unable to discharge this responsibility on the basis of the report submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration at its eighth session,³³

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit 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 various 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 the discussion of this question by the Committee at its eighth session³⁴ and, in particular, to consider how best to avoid duplication of responsibility and effort within the Secretariat.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/60. Development of the energy resources of the developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

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

³² E/C.7/1983/12.

³³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19 and Corr.1), chap. IX.*

³⁴ E/C.7/1983/7.

Reaffirming the importance of continued study and discussion of this question by the international community,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General on the development of the energy resources of the developing countries,³⁵

Regretting the delay in the submission of the report on this question to the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the completed report, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/251, to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, to enable it to consider this question in depth and to take action as appropriate;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take into account, in completing the report, the preliminary views expressed by Governments at the second regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/61. Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1978/60 of 3 August 1978, 1978/75 of 8 November 1978, 1979/48 of 31 July 1979 and 1981/45 of 20 July 1981,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 34/137 of 14 December 1979, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the Secretary-General to continue his detailed study of the role of the public sector and to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, paying special attention to several aspects of the matter indicated in that resolution,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Noting that, in paragraph 31 of section II of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, it was stated that due account should be taken of the positive role of the public sector in mobilizing internal resources, formulating and implementing overall national development plans and establishing national priorities,

Bearing in mind that every State has the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic and social system in accordance with the will of its people, without outside interference,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries;³⁶

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to study the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries and to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a further comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, taking into account information supplied by Member States and comments and suggestions on the subject made by delegations at meetings of intergovernmental bodies, and, *inter alia*, paying special attention to the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 34/137;

3. *Reaffirms* Council resolution 1978/60, in which it, *inter alia*, invited the regional commissions and other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to assist the Secretary-General regularly in his continuing study of the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, while implementing the present resolution, to consider, if necessary, organizing, in close co-operation with competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, a seminar on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include reference to the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries in the reports called for under General Assembly resolutions 37/202 and 37/204 of 20 December 1982.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/62. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 1978-1988 the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Noting the decision taken by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its third session, held at Cairo from 8 to 11 March 1983,³⁷ concerning the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar and the Tangiers-Lagos axis,

Noting also decisions G (XXXVII) of 2 April 1982³⁸ and I (XXXVIII) of 22 April 1983³⁹ of the Economic Commission for Europe, in which the Executive Secretary of that Commission was requested to continue

³⁵ E/1983/91.

³⁶ A/38/176-E/1983/50.

³⁷ See E/ECN/CM.9/26.

³⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 9* (E/1982/19), chap. IV.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 1983, *Supplement No. 11* (E/1983/22), chap. IV.