

technical and financial co-operation with developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the drought-stricken countries of Africa, with a view to improving the assessment, development, utilization and management of water resources.

*52nd plenary meeting
25 July 1985*

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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the fact that 1987 represents the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,⁶

Bearing in mind that some specialized agencies will organize technical meetings in 1987 geared to the discussion of water-related issues stemming from the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal made by the Government of Argentina to sponsor a high-level meeting of experts to propose possible solutions in a number of key problem areas to facilitate the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance in the preparations for and the organization of the meeting, within existing budgetary resources;

2. *Invites* the regional commissions and the specialized agencies to co-operate with the Secretary-General in preparing for the meeting;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session of the results of the high-level meeting.

*52nd plenary meeting
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1985/50. Application of microcomputer technology in the development of water, energy and mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the rapid growth and the development potential of computer technology, in particular the advent of inexpensive and reliable microcomputers and the need of developing countries for information on hardware, software and training materials,

Bearing in mind the advantages that developing countries could derive from a wider application of such techniques in the implementation of natural resources development policy,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development⁷ and of the information provided on the current activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat in this field,

Taking note also of the progress made in the application of computer technology for the assessment and development of energy and water resources in the developing countries through various technical co-operation activities,

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

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue activities related to the application of microcomputer technology in the assessment, development and planning of natural resources—water, energy and mineral resources—in such areas as the development and dissemination of appropriate software technology;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth and subsequent sessions on the progress made in the application of the technology referred to in paragraph 1 above.

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1985/51. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XX-VIII) 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 Exploration⁸ and requests the Administrator to provide, in his next report, detailed information on deposits discovered;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Fund to promote pre-investment follow-up to its successful mineral discoveries, in close co-operation with the recipient Governments;

3. *Also welcomes* the new activities of the Fund in geothermal exploration;

4. *Recognizes* the urgent requirement to increase financial support to the Fund by means of voluntary contributions;

⁶ 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.

⁷ E/C.7/1985/7.

⁸ DP/1985/46 and Add.1.

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Fund to seek co-financing partners as a means of expanding its immediate funding capacity to meet the demands for projects.

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1985/52. 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 the benefits from the exploration for, and the exploitation and processing of, their natural resources in order to strengthen their economic development,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources⁹ and of the comments made thereon by the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session,¹⁰

Taking into account the work done in other forums of the United Nations system regarding permanent sovereignty over natural resources,

1. *Requests* the Committee on Natural Resources to continue, at its tenth session, its consideration of the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources", including:

(a) Strengthening of national capabilities to explore for, exploit and process natural resources for the national benefit;

(b) National experience of different countries in developing natural resources;

(c) Impact of the international economic situation on the exploitation of natural resources, particularly in the developing countries;

(d) Promotion of investments in natural resources to meet basic priorities in the developing countries, taking into account, *inter alia*, the perspectives of national and world markets;

(e) Creation of new industries in developing countries, based on an integrated transformation and industrialization of their natural resources;

(f) Technical and technological developments related to natural resources in developing countries;

(g) Conservation of natural resources;

(h) Environment and natural resources;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question of permanent sovereignty over

natural resources, taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above and the comments made by the Committee at its ninth session;

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

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1985/53. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, by which it decided to establish the Committee on Natural Resources and set out its terms of reference, specifically charging the Committee to maintain liaison between the activities in the field of natural resources of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and co-operation,

Mindful of the vital contribution made by bilateral and multilateral technical co-operation programmes in enhancing national capabilities in developing countries effectively to explore for, manage and develop their natural resources,

Concerned that the Committee should effectively advise the Council in order to ensure maximum co-ordination, and thus the effectiveness and economy of the activities of the United Nations,

Recognizing that co-ordination of technical assistance activities within the United Nations system has significant potential for increasing the efficiency and expanding the results of United Nations and other resource development activities within existing funding constraints,

Observing that available information on United Nations and related activities in natural resources co-operation should be taken into consideration by the Committee in preparing its recommendations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and co-operation in water resources development,¹¹

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and co-operation in water resources development and requests the Secretary-General to update that report for the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its eleventh session a report based, *inter alia*, on information made available by Governments,

⁹ E/C.7/1985/8.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 7 (E/1985/27)*, chap. VII.

¹¹ E/C.7/1985/10.