

12. *Further appeals* to member States to review the statutes and regulations governing the Trans-African Highway Authorities in order to adapt them to the new operating structure of the trans-African highways;

13. *Appeals* to donors and, in particular, to the United Nations Development Programme to assist in the financing of the extended programme of the single bureau designed to assist member States in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade;

14. *Requests* the Resource Mobilization Committee for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa to assist the bureau in its efforts to mobilize resources for its operation;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Development Programme for its efforts to provide assistance to enable African countries to prepare the programme for the Second Decade properly;

16. *Appeals* to the United Nations Development Programme to provide African countries with the technical assistance needed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the programme at the national, sub-sectoral and subregional levels;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its eighteenth meeting on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*32nd plenary meeting
26 July 1991*

1991/84. International Conference on Water and the Environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be convened in 1992.

Recalling also the Mar del Plata Action Plan,¹⁰³

Noting with appreciation that the World Meteorological Organization, on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system with programmes in fresh water that are represented in the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, will convene, at the government expert level, an International Conference on Water and the Environment in January 1992, as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and also noting with appreci-

ation the kind offer of the Government of Ireland to act as host for the International Conference on Water and the Environment, hereinafter called the Dublin Conference,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and, in that connection, stressing the relevance for the Dublin Conference of the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990,¹⁰⁴

Welcoming the comprehensive documentation on integrated water resources development submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session,

1. *Stresses* the need for an action-oriented outcome of the Dublin Conference in order to enable it to make a significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. *Recommends* that in the preparations for the Dublin Conference efforts be made to prepare initiatives for integrated water resources development and management, containing, where feasible, targets, timetables and cost-estimates in the form of international action programmes and possible guidelines to enable Governments to formulate their national action plans;

3. *Affirms* the vital importance of water as a finite and fragile resource, as well as of the effective development and management of water at appropriate administrative levels;

4. *Calls upon* the governing bodies and secretariats of appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to submit, within their respective mandates and in close collaboration with Governments and the secretariats of the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, substantive contributions to the Dublin Conference;

5. *Invites* all Governments to engage actively in the preparatory process leading up to the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to contribute to that process;

6. *Calls upon* the inter-agency steering committee established by the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the purpose of preparing for the Dublin Conference to take fully into account the views expressed by Governments throughout the preparatory process when preparing the documentation for the Dublin Conference;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, as the convener of the Dublin Conference, and on behalf of the participating United Nations agencies, to report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and

¹⁰³ 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.

¹⁰⁴ A/C.2/45/3, annex.

Development at its third session on the status of the preparations for the Dublin Conference.

*32nd plenary meeting
26 July 1991*

**1991/85. Water resources development
and progress in the implementation
of the Mar del Plata Action Plan**

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,¹⁰⁵ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,¹⁰⁶

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan,¹⁰⁷

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/7 of 22 May 1989, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session a comprehensive report on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Alarmed at the fact that at the end of the Decade one in three people in the developing countries still lacks access to water and sanitation services,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s;¹⁰⁸

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources;¹⁰⁹

3. *Reaffirms* the continuing validity of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the objectives and recommendations contained therein, affirms the endorsement by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/181 of the four guiding principles, the actions recommended and the proposed follow-up enunciated in the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990,¹¹⁰ and recognizes that the New Delhi Statement constitutes a

positive step towards the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

4. *Stresses* that the ultimate goal of the Mar del Plata Action Plan is to promote the level of preparedness needed to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions through the efficient and productive use and management of scarce water resources, which are vital to development, taking into consideration environmental concerns, including those related to the semi-arid and arid regions of developing countries;

5. *Emphasizes* that the 1990s will require an intensification of national efforts and international development cooperation in order to ensure the efficient and productive use and management of scarce water resources;

6. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for new strategies for integrated water resources development and management, including strategies in the areas of finance and technology, to manage the growing demand for water and to achieve long-term sustainability of the water resources sector;

7. *Stresses* the need to strengthen and increase international assistance, including technical assistance, human resources development and exchange of information, in order to support the efforts of developing countries;

8. *Urges* the appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assign a high degree of priority to activities, projects and programmes related to water resources undertaken at all levels by developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session, for consideration and follow-up, an analytical report on the progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan containing recommendations for future action at the national and international levels and a summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a compendium of legislative mandates relevant to water resources adopted by the entities of the United Nations system concerned.

*32nd plenary meeting
26 July 1991*

**1991/86. Development and efficient use
of energy 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

¹⁰⁵ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

¹⁰⁶ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

¹⁰⁷ *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.

¹⁰⁸ E/C.7/1991/8.

¹⁰⁹ E/C.7/1991/10.

¹¹⁰ A/C.2/45/3, annex.