

7. Takes note of the recommendation of the Committee with regard to future sessions of the Committee but considers that the current provision of one annual session of three weeks' duration should be maintained for the time being and invites the Committee to explore further ways of expediting its consideration of periodic reports, such as imposing time limits on oral interventions, avoiding duplication in questioning, requesting supplementary written material, and encouraging States parties to present reports that are as succinct as possible;

8. Welcomes the proposal of the Committee to set up a sessional working group to consider its methods of work and invites the Committee to develop as a matter of priority its general guidelines for the preparation of reports pursuant to articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, taking due account of the compilation of guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General and focusing on such specific information as would assist the Committee to carry out its mandate more effectively;

9. Invites the Committee to consider again at its next session the compilation of recommendations in the summary records of the Committee relating to its future work, paying particular regard to practices followed by other treaty bodies, including the preparation of general comments by the Human Rights Committee;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the report of the Committee to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations organs and their subsidiaries, specialized agencies concerned with providing technical assistance and the regional commissions;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights to assist States parties in discharging their reporting obligations under the Covenant, including holding training courses on the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Covenant, and to advise States parties of the availability of such assistance;

12. Encourages the Secretary-General to give publicity to the proceedings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to ensure that it receives full administrative support so as to enable it to discharge its functions as effectively as possible;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to provide a compilation from official United Nations sources of statistics relevant to the Committee's consideration of the reports of States parties;

14. Decides to transmit the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-second session for consideration under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

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26 May 1987

#### 1987/6. Indicative patterns of consumption: qualitative indicators of development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/179 of 17 December 1985 on patterns of consumption and qualitative aspects of development,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-four session,<sup>9</sup> in particular the section on development indicators,

1. Takes note of the information on action to be taken in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 40/179, contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-fourth session;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the regional commissions for the considerable progress achieved in the elaboration of development indicators, in accordance with the guidelines defined by the General Assembly;

3. Recommends that a report setting forth the views of Governments and containing a small number of case studies or national monographs on the preparation of a set of indicators in the fields identified in paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 40/179 and the indicative patterns of consumption referred to in paragraph 3 thereof be prepared by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, in consultation with other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the regional commissions and other appropriate research institutes;

4. Recommends that appropriate extrabudgetary resources be allocated for the preparation of the above-mentioned case studies or national monographs, and invites interested donor countries, appropriate international organizations and other organizations wishing to participate in the research work on patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development, to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for that purpose;

5. Also recommends that the report be considered by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session, and that the recommendations of the Commission on the report be submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1989, the results of the Council's consideration thereon to be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

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26 May 1987

#### 1987/7. Water resources and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling its resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68 and 1979/70 of 3 August 1979, 1981/80 of 24 July 1981, 1983/57 of 28 July 1983 and 1985/49 of 25 July 1985, concerning the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,<sup>10</sup>

Recalling also its resolution 1981/81 of 24 July 1981, concerning co-operative measures among international river and lake organizations and related activities within the United Nations system,

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 6 (E/1987/19).

<sup>10</sup> *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

Noting that the Interregional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan was convened by the Secretary-General in New York from 5 to 9 January 1987 in order to review the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference ten years after the Conference,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the oral report on the conclusions reached at the Interregional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, made before the Committee on Natural Resources at its 196th meeting, on 14 April 1987, by the representative of the United Nations Secretariat;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate for the information of Governments the final report of the Symposium;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session, together with his report on the follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, a supplementary report that would include the following:

(a) Views of Governments on the report of the Symposium;

(b) Developments in co-operative action taken in the field of shared water resources, including specific items on co-operative action to reduce land degradation and desertification, to establish and make operational a hydrometeorological data collection network and publicize the data, to alleviate flood risks, and to prevent and control transboundary pollution;

4. Invites all Governments to continue and possibly increase their efforts to train personnel in technical and managerial skills, giving due regard to the role of women in water resources developments and management;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with regional commissions and organizations of the United Nations system, to report to the Committee at its eleventh session on progress in formulating proposals for a comprehensive strategy to implement the Mar del Plata Action Plan during the decade 1991-2000 and to include an assessment of those proposals as they relate to the activities of the United Nations system.

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#### 1987/8. Trends and salient issues in mineral resources

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling its resolutions 1985/47 on small-scale mining, 1985/48 on mineral resources and 1985/54 on the rationalization of the work of the Committee on Natural Resources, all of 25 July 1985,

Recognizing the effective contribution of the mineral resources sector to the economies of developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in mineral resources,<sup>11</sup>

Also taking note of the section on mineral resources contained in the note by the Secretary-General on issues in natural resources and energy for consideration in the preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995,<sup>12</sup>

1. Decides that the Committee on Natural Resources, at its eleventh session, shall give priority consideration to mineral resources, subject to the concerns expressed in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1985/54;

2. Also decides that, within the overall subject of mineral resources, special attention shall be given to small-scale mining, as defined in Council resolution 1985/47;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on small-scale mining prospects in developing countries, as called for in Council resolution 1985/47;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee, at its eleventh session, a report on trends and salient issues in the mineral sector, giving special consideration to cost-saving technologies in the mining industry and prospects for geological exploration in developing countries, with due regard to the development of industrial minerals

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#### 1987/9. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling its resolution 1985/50 of 25 July 1985 on the application of microcomputer technology in the development of water, energy and mineral resources,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 on principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space,

Recognizing that, in order to optimize utilization of satellite remote sensing, developing countries require facilities and better access to data through an information referral system containing information on remote sensing data and on how to gain access to such data,

Considering that developing countries need to be apprised of the limitations and potential of commercial and non-commercial hardware and software systems for digital processing of remote sensing data and of procedures for obtaining access to such systems,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Application of microcomputer technology in the assessment, planning and development of natural resources: water, energy and mineral resources",<sup>13</sup>

1. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>14</sup>

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a feasibility study on the establishment of an information referral system, showing area, coverage, type of data, quality, and how and where to secure imagery and other relevant information that can guide users in the most efficient way to obtain remote sensing data, and to submit that study to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to establish, within existing resources, a remote sensing library and referral system to provide users with guidance on available commercial and non-commercial hardware and software systems for digital processing and analysis of remote sensing data;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to convene, within existing resources, a meeting of a small group of

<sup>11</sup> E/C.7/1987/8.

<sup>12</sup> E/C.7/1987/CRP.1, sect. II.

<sup>13</sup> E/C.7/1987/3.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. IV