

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.

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987

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,¹¹

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 1990-1995,¹²

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

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987

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",¹³

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

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

¹¹ E/C.7/1987/8.

¹² E/C.7/1987/CRP.1, sect. II.

¹³ E/C.7/1987/3.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, sect. IV

experts on hardware and software systems for remote sensing to assess properly the constraints and capabilities of such systems and provide the Committee and user countries, especially developing countries, with the results of that technology assessment meeting.

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987

1987/10. Application of microcomputer technology in the assessment and development of natural resources and energy

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,

Mindful of the accelerating pace of progress in microcomputer technology and its application to the assessment, planning and development of natural resources and energy,

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",¹³

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

2. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to promote the transfer and dissemination to the developing countries of microcomputer technology for the assessment, planning and development of water, energy and mineral resources;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations and in the application of microcomputer technology;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a software reference library comprising a collection of software packages developed by various organizations of the United Nations system and references to software packages available in the commercial and public sectors for use in the exploration for and development and management of natural resources, and to distribute software to developing countries through application-oriented workshops, seminars and training courses, to be organized at the regional or country level, preferably in developing countries.

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987

1987/11. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and Council resolution 1762 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, concerning the establishment of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/194 of 29 January 1979 on multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources,

Recognizing the importance of the Fund as an effective instrument for assisting developing countries in the development of their natural resources,

Expressing concern at the very limited financial capacity of the Fund to fulfil its mandate,

1. Takes note of the achievements and continuing efforts of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration in the fields of mineral and geothermal energy exploration;

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

3. Recognizes the urgent need to increase financial support for the Fund by means of voluntary contributions so that it may fulfil its mandate;

4. Welcomes the further 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.

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987

1987/12. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the problems that the present international economic situation causes all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Noting that it is important for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to make optimum economic use of their natural resources in order to strengthen their economic development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources¹⁵ and the comments made thereon by the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session,

Taking into account the work done by other organs and organizations of the United Nations system regarding permanent sovereignty over natural resources,

1. Reaffirms 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;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a concise report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session, bearing in mind the comments made by the Committee at its tenth session.

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1987

1987/13. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Having received the report of the Secretary-General on programme activities of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,¹⁶

Bearing in mind the very broad range of activities proposed for inclusion in the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995,¹⁷

Convinced of the need to increase the effectiveness and relevance of the work of the United Nations system,

¹⁵ E/C.7/1987/2

¹⁶ E/C.7/1987/7

¹⁷ See E/C.7/1987/CRP.1.