

Recognizing with appreciation the progress already achieved in strengthening international co-operation as a result of periodic inter-agency meetings on water resources,

Endorsing the recommendation of the Secretary-General that high priority be given to remedying deficiencies in hydrology data and to assisting in integrated river-basin development,

Considering that the general subject of international co-operation with respect to water resource development and the study of arid regions has been of increasing concern to the United Nations,

Considering the growing importance of the utilization of brackish and saline water, either unprocessed or demineralized, for the economic development of areas where fresh-water supplies are becoming insufficient,

Believing that there is a growing economic and social need for the most effective utilization and development of these water resources in view of the progressive increase in the world's population, the need for raising the standard of living of the peoples of the world, and rapidly increasing industrialization,

1. *Reaffirms* its support of Council resolutions 417 (XIV) of 2 June 1952 and 533 (XVIII) of 2 August 1954;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies for the co-operation evidenced in the series of consultations on water resources already held;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to continue such consultations to the end that the activities of the United Nations and the organizations associated with it be carried on with full regard to the interrelationships involved;

4. *Calls the attention* of Governments to the importance of demineralization of saline water and utilization of subsoil water, and urges them to exchange information on the findings of research concerned with a solution of these problems;

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the desirability of an increased use of the available technical assistance facilities, especially in the training of personnel in this field;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To make appropriate arrangements for ensuring the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on current development of water projects, research programmes and related activities;

(b) To initiate, in co-operation with the competent specialized agencies and with the Governments concerned, a preliminary inquiry on existing hydrologic services, plans for their extension, and conditions for the execution of these plans;

(c) To constitute a panel of world-renowned experts for reviewing, with the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat, the administrative, economic and social implications of integrated river-basin development, and for advising on the proper action - including, if they deem it advisable, the convening of an international

conference--to be taken in order to ensure a world-wide exchange of experience and data in related domains;

(d) To report to the Council, not later than its twenty-fifth session, on progress in these fields and to formulate recommendations on further action that might be taken by the United Nations and the organizations associated with it.

924th plenary meeting,
3 May 1956.

600 (XXI). International co-operation on cartography

The Economic and Social Council,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "International Co-operation on Cartography"⁶ and the report of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East,⁷

Recognizing the importance of accurate and reliable cartographic information, more especially in connexion with economic development projects,

Noting the results of the Secretary-General's consultations with Governments and appropriate inter-governmental organizations on the adoption of a standard method of writing geographical names on maps, and on means for completion of the International Map of the World on the millionth scale,

1. *Commends* the Conference for the work achieved;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments of Member States to the possibilities of requesting technical assistance in the field of cartography under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance;

3. *Recommends* that those regional economic commissions which think it desirable consider the question of establishing cartographic committees for the purpose of periodic consultation among their members;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To draft, in co-operation with interested international organizations and such experts as he may wish to consult within the limits of budgetary availability, the general framework of a programme looking towards maximum international uniformity in the writing of geographical names, to submit it to Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies for their comments, and to report to the Council at a subsequent session;

(b) To prepare, on the basis of proposals already received, draft amendments to the existing specifications of the International Map of the World on the millionth scale designed to allow the greatest possible flexibility, bearing in mind the need to maintain both the World Aeronautical Chart series of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Map, to submit the draft amendments to Governments of Member

⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Seventy-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 6, documents E/2823 and Add.1 and 2.

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.1.29.

States concerned for their comments, and to report to the Council at a subsequent session;

5. *Invites* Governments of Member States to comment on the proposals and recommendations of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to convene in 1958 in Tokyo a second regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East, including the preparation of a provisional agenda and the sending of invitations to Governments of States Members of the United Nations or of members of the specialized agencies, and to the specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations.

*922nd plenary meeting,
2 May 1956.*

601 (XXI). Report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.⁸

*902nd plenary meeting,
18 April 1956.*

602 (XXI). Report of the International Monetary Fund

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the International Monetary Fund.⁹

*904th plenary meeting,
19 April 1956.*

603 (XXI). Convention on Road Traffic adopted at the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport (Geneva, 19 September 1949)

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the Secretary-General's note¹⁰ on the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic drawing its attention to the expiry on 26 March 1957 of the provision contained in paragraph 6 of article 24 of that Convention reading as follows:

" During a period of five years beginning with the entry into force of this Convention, any driver admitted to international traffic under the provisions of the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic signed at Paris on 24 April 1926, or of the Convention

⁸ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *Tenth Annual Report, 1954-1955*, Washington, D. C. (E/2802), *Appendices to the Tenth Annual Report, 1954-1955* (E/2802/Add.1), and document E/2802/Add.2.

⁹ International Monetary Fund, *Annual Report of the Executive Directors for the Fiscal Year ended April 30, 1955*, Washington, D.C. (E/2801), and document E/2801/Add.1.

¹⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 22, document E/2818 and Add.1.

on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic opened for signature at Washington on 15 December 1943, and holding the documents required thereunder, shall be considered as fulfilling the requirements of this article".

Taking into account the opinion expressed by the Transport and Communications Commission in paragraph 34 of the report on its seventh session,¹¹ and also resolution 185 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe at its thirteenth session,

Recognizing the difficulties and delay involved in formally amending the Convention,

1. *Recommends* prompt ratification of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic by all eligible Governments which have not already done so, in order to achieve at the earliest possible date the desirable world-wide uniformity in administrative procedures provided by the Convention;

2. *Recommends* Governments of States which are or may become parties to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic to examine the possibility of continuing, as an administrative measure, to apply the provisions of paragraph 6 of article 24 of that Convention for an additional period of three years, up to 26 March 1960;

3. *Instructs* the Secretary-General to communicate the above recommendation to the Governments mentioned in paragraph 2 and to request them to inform him of their position with respect to this recommendation;

4. *Instructs further* the Secretary-General to inform Governments of States which are parties or are eligible to become parties to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic of the replies received under paragraph 3.

*914th plenary meeting,
26 April 1956.*

604 (XXI). Recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 570 (XIX) of 20 May 1955, requesting the Secretary-General to ascertain from the Governments mentioned therein whether they consider it desirable to convene a conference to conclude a convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, and whether they are prepared to participate in such a conference,

Noting from the report of the Secretary-General¹² on the result of the consultation undertaken in pursuance of resolution 570 (XIX)¹³ that a substantial number of Governments have expressed themselves in favour of convening a conference to conclude a convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards,

¹¹ *Idem, Nineteenth Session, Supplement No. 4* (E/2696).

¹² E/2822 and Corr.1.

¹³ E/2822/Add.1 to 5.