

account, in the light of the priorities of the countries concerned, not only the technical possibilities for groundwater supplies, but also the groundwater balance and water quality problems;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep under review costs of groundwater development in developing countries.

E

INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the deliberations of the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session on the question of international river basin development,⁵²

1. *Takes note* of the preliminary note by the Secretary-General on the technical and economic aspects of international river basin development,⁵³ and of the views expressed by members of the Committee on Natural Resources with regard to the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a revised and more comprehensive version of the note as well as a progress report on related activities for the fourth session of the Committee on Natural Resources.

F

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account the relevant views of the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session,⁵⁴

Bearing in mind the linkages between rational management of natural resources and environmental aspects and the need for the fullest use of existing United Nations machinery as well as for clarification of roles,

1. *Decides* to forward to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session, for its information, the reports of the Committee on Natural Resources at its second⁵⁵ and third⁵⁶ sessions;

2. *Further decides* to examine and define at its fifty-seventh session the relative role of and co-operation between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

G

SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, 1572 (L) of 18 May 1971 and 1673 (LII) of 2 June 1972,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session⁵⁶ in its various aspects,

⁵² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5247)*, chap. VI, sect. C.

⁵³ E/C.7/35.

⁵⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5247)*, chap. VI, sect. D.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5097, and Corr.1 and 3)*.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5247)*.

Grateful to the Government of India for the excellent facilities made available for the third session of the Committee held at New Delhi,

Expressing its appreciation for the further progress made in the Committee's work at its third session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session;

2. *Agrees* that, subject to determination of the specific date and venue in conjunction with the calendar of conferences, the fourth session of the Committee on Natural Resources should be convened in 1975;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the officers of the Committee on Natural Resources, a draft agenda for the fourth session and to circulate it by the end of 1973 to members of the Committee for comments, and then to circulate a provisional agenda in the early part of 1974.

1857th plenary meeting
18 May 1973

1762 (LIV). Question of the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1572 C (L) of 18 May 1971, 1673 F (LII) of 2 June 1972 and 1711 (LIII) of 28 July 1972,

Taking note of the reports of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,⁵⁷ the report of the Chairman of the Working Group,⁵⁸ and the note by the Secretary-General,⁵⁹

Endorsing once again the "self-help" principles embodied in the concept for the mutual benefit of developing countries,

Taking into account the deliberations and decisions of the Committee on Natural Resources at its first, second and third sessions,

1. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its twenty-eighth session, should decide to establish a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration based on the following principles and objectives:

(a) The fund shall be established as a trust fund, placed in the charge of the Secretary-General and administered on his behalf by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme;

(b) The purpose of the fund is to enable the activities of the United Nations development systems in the field of natural resources exploration in the developing countries to be extended and intensified, concentrating on such projects that are generally known to have a catalytic effect on the country's socio-economic development;

(c) The revolving character of the fund is its main feature, as the problem of financing natural resources exploration is to be solved by specific methods; the fund shall be managed in such a manner as to ensure its revolving feature;

(d) The fund shall provide assistance to participating recipient States in the exploration of mineral, water

⁵⁷ E/C.7/24, E/C.7/29.

⁵⁸ See E/AC.6/L.485.

⁵⁹ E/5270.

and energy resources under national jurisdiction, utilizing for this purpose voluntary contributions and funds generated through the production of these resources discovered or developed with the assistance from the fund;

(e) In allocating the resources of the fund, consideration will be given to achieving an equitable pattern of distribution among participating developing countries;

(f) The fund shall be guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, duly taking into account the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources;

(g) Participation in the fund shall be open to any State that is a Member of the United Nations or a member of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(h) The financial resources of the fund shall comprise the following:

(i) Voluntary contributions to the fund made by Governments;

(ii) Payments by recipient participating States which shall be amounts equivalent to a percentage of the value of natural resources produced under projects assisted by the fund;

(iii) Donations and advances in cash or kind, accepted from intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the United Nations and the fund;

(i) The rate of repayment, the length of the repayment period and the total sum to be repaid will be decided by an agreement between the fund and the recipient State; the rate of repayment and the length of the repayment period should be on the basis of the pertinent proposals contained in the note by the Secretary-General,⁵⁹ in deciding on the total sum to be repaid, due consideration should also be given to the type of project and the need for the total repayment to bear close relationship to the amount originally loaned, bearing in mind the need to ensure the revolving nature of the fund;

(j) (i) Assistance shall be given in the form of financing of projects formulated for the United Nations Development Programme or, when within the capability of the fund, projects not formulated for the United Nations Development Programme;

(ii) Assistance provided by the fund to participating States shall be additional to that provided under the United Nations Development Programme indicative planning figures;

(iii) The assistance shall be negotiated by the Governments of the recipient States and the fund and shall be mutually acceptable to them;

(iv) In the formulation and appraisal of projects, the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme will provide co-ordination at the field level with the country programming;

(k) The fund may give assistance in all phases of exploration, which may include:

(i) The preparation of requests for assistance from the fund;

(ii) The exploration of natural resources;

(iii) Pre-investment studies, which may include feasibility studies;

(l) The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme will submit to the governing body, for approval, projects to be financed by the fund;

(m) Since it will take some time for the resources of the revolving fund and its scope of operations to grow to a size making the administration by an inter-governmental body necessary, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme shall be the governing body of the fund for the first four years and the matter will be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council in consultation with the Committee on Natural Resources and the United Nations Development Programme;

(n) The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in full consultation with the Secretary-General shall appoint a Director of the fund, when necessary; the Director shall be appointed for a period of three years; the appointment of the Director shall be confirmed by the governing body;

(o) The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme will submit an annual report to the Economic and Social Council on the progress and operation of the revolving fund together with the comments of the Committee on Natural Resources and the governing body;

(p) The Economic and Social Council shall review, in the light of experience gained, the functions and institutional arrangements as well as the repayment system of the fund, with a view to recommending to the General Assembly necessary changes and improvements, taking fully into account the comments of the governing body and the Committee on Natural Resources; the first such review shall be carried out at the end of the first four years following the commencement of the operations of the fund;

2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its twenty-eighth session, should request the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for the establishment of the fund;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore possible sources, governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental, of financial assistance to the fund.

*1857th plenary meeting
18 May 1973*

1763 (LIV). United Nations Fund for Population Activities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2815 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 with its requests to the Secretary-General regarding the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the note by the Secretary-General⁶⁰ in response thereto,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, which placed the United Nations Fund for Population Activities under the authority of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme as the governing

⁶⁰ A/8899.