

1981/76. Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to its resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Recognizing the importance of natural resources for economic development, in particular non-metallic raw materials,

Recalling that the Committee on Natural Resources considered copper, nickel and chromium, and molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium, as well as phosphate rock and potash, at its fifth, sixth and seventh sessions, respectively,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in respect of mineral resources, with particular reference to molybdenum, cobalt and vanadium and including problems of the transfer of technology,¹¹² and on phosphate rock and potash,¹¹³

Taking into account the work undertaken by other United Nations organizations concerned, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, a comprehensive report on the prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials, with special reference to non-metallic minerals for the construction, paper, ceramics and glass industries, bearing in mind developments in material sciences, and paying special attention to measures that might be undertaken to evaluate prospective raw materials in developing countries.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/77. Trends and salient issues, with particular reference to rare metals, especially tantalum, niobium (columbium) and lithium

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to Economic and Social Council resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Recalling that issues related to the raw materials base of the copper, nickel, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt, vanadium and phosphate rock and potash industries have been discussed at previous sessions of the Committee on Natural Resources,

Reaffirming that the Committee on Natural Resources should continue to consider problems of availability and supply of natural resources of selected minerals and metals,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the Committee on Natural Resources at its

¹¹² E/C.7/115.

¹¹³ E/C.7/114 and Corr.1.

eighth session, a report evaluating the development prospects of rare metals, with special reference to tantalum, niobium (columbium) and lithium, and paying special attention to measures that might be undertaken in the developing countries to increase exploration for and production of those metals.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/78. Survey of planned investment for mineral development

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to its resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Bearing in mind that continued investment in exploration for mineral resources and in new mines and processing plants is of great importance for the development of the mineral sector of all countries, especially the developing countries, and for ensuring uninterrupted supplies of vital mineral raw materials,

Aware that information on planned investment and its regional distribution, while important for policy decisions by Governments, is not adequately available to most developing countries or is often unreliable and not sufficiently detailed,

Recognizing that information on the actual implementation of exploration programmes and the development of new capacity is not in many cases readily available,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session, a report analysing investments, both planned and effectively made, in major mineral industries, in particular in regard to the regional distribution of mineral exploration and development, and paying special attention to measures that might be undertaken to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to respond promptly to changing situations and to establish and implement effective mineral resources development policies.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/79. Availability and supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to its resolution 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975 on problems of availability and supply of natural resources,

Bearing in mind that a number of developing countries are interested in an evaluation of the situation with regard to exploration for and development of indigenous fertilizer raw materials, in particular phosphate rock, and noting the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Availability and

supply of selected minerals: phosphate rock and potash",¹¹⁴

Taking into account the work on fertilizers undertaken by other United Nations organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the phosphate resources research project of the International Geological Correlation Programme,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for the eighth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, a report identifying possible new locations for the exploration for phosphate rock and potash in the developing countries, making use of advanced exploration techniques, where appropriate, on the basis of available geological data;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist in the evaluation of known and newly discovered deposits on the basis of available data, bearing in mind (a) the need for the use of low-grade ores and local sources of raw materials in the manufacture of fertilizers, (b) the economic advantages of the direct application of phosphate rock in agriculture, and (c) the need to update the data on the future availability of this non-renewable resource;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine, in collaboration with other United Nations organizations concerned, the possibility of specific activities, including workshops and study tours, to assist developing countries in the identification and subsequent technical and economic evaluation of their fertilizer raw materials, with special emphasis on techniques suitable in the climatic and infrastructural conditions of those countries and with a view to improving the flow of information and transfer of technology to those countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore all possible sources of funding for such activities;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session on progress achieved on these questions.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/80. Water resources development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/191 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly requested the Committee on Natural Resources to review during the 1980s the progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,¹¹⁵

Taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *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.

Decade and decided to review at its fortieth session the progress made towards the attainment of the goals of the Decade,

Bearing in mind resolution 25 of 30 July 1980 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,¹¹⁶

Recognizing that access to adequate supplies of clean water affects not merely health but also general development, including human productivity, crop cultivation, livestock production, small-scale industry and overall economic growth,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68 and 1979/70 of 3 August 1979, concerning the follow-up activities for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Reiterating the importance of the provisions of the Action Plan in promoting the accelerated development and orderly administration of water resources for the improvement of the economic and social well-being of mankind,

Deeply concerned that Governments of developing countries, in their water development activities, continue to be faced with serious constraints, including a shortage of trained manpower, inadequate financial resources, deficiencies in institutional and legal frameworks and lack of equipment,

Bearing in mind that the majority of Governments of developing countries have expressed the view that bilateral and multilateral co-operation, in the form of, *inter alia*, the provision of scholarships, financing, equipment and technical advisory services, would be helpful in overcoming the above-mentioned constraints,

Taking note of the three reports prepared by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, entitled "Present status of water resources development: progress and prospects since the United Nations Water Conference",¹¹⁷ "Progress and prospects relative to water resources policy, planning, legislation and institutional arrangements: proposals for interdisciplinary missions",¹¹⁸ and "Present and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development",¹¹⁹

I. WATER RESOURCES PLANNING, POLICY FORMULATION, LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR CO-ORDINATING NATIONAL INTERESTS

1. *Recalls* the importance of the provisions of section D of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and asks those Governments that have not done so to formulate a national water policy statement that allows for the harmonization of their water development plans within

¹¹⁶ See *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum) chap. I, sect. B.

¹¹⁷ E/C.7/117.

¹¹⁸ E/C.7/118.

¹¹⁹ E/C.7/120.