

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.

the framework of national economic development planning, and to keep under review planning objectives and methods;

2. *Urges* Governments to intensify their efforts in the formulation and updating of water legislation, where appropriate, taking into account the applicable experiences of other countries;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of co-ordinating water resources at the national level, as well as the regional and local levels, as a means of effective and comprehensive planning for the development and management of national water resources;

4. *Endorses* the proposal for the organization of interdisciplinary advisory missions, staffed by experts from the various organizations of the United Nations system, to render technical assistance to Governments, *inter alia*, on the formulation of comprehensive water policies, the setting up of appropriate legislative and administrative arrangements and the formulation of national master plans, in response to requests from Governments and in line with their specific requirement and on the understanding that those missions would be organized along the lines set out in paragraph 87 of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its seventh session¹²⁰ and funded from extra-budgetary resources, as specified in that paragraph;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to inform Governments of developing countries, through the resident co-ordinators of the United Nations system, of the possibility of requesting the services of such missions;

II. ASSESSMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1. *Urges* Governments to intensify their activities in water resources assessment—which is a prerequisite for national water resources development, planning and management—to include, *inter alia*, the strengthening of services for the collection, processing and dissemination of water resources data, the improvement of studies on the water cycle and hydrological processes and on the reciprocal reactions between these and human activities and the ecosystems, as well as improvements in the procedures for the assessment of water resources on the basis of area, and the development of appropriate infrastructures;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and other organizations concerned to promote unified methodologies for water resources assessment and to enhance international co-operation in this area;

III. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1. *Urges* Governments of Member States to increase their capabilities for the provision of training and

research at the national level by setting up new facilities and/or increasing the capacity of existing ones in the various fields of water resources, including planning, legislation, the assessment of water resources and their development and use for different purposes, such as agriculture, municipal water supplies and industry, and the preservation of ecological systems;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop, in co-operation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, integrated and comprehensive approaches and programmes with regard to education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session;

3. *Requests* the regional commissions and the organizations concerned to consider the establishment and upgrading of regional and subregional water training programmes and networks, taking into account existing arrangements, and requests the Secretary-General to report on progress made in this regard to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session;

IV. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. *Urges* Governments of developing countries to intensify co-operation in the form of technical co-operation among developing countries in such areas as the exchange of information and consultant services, technical and economic co-operation projects, the establishment of joint water-management centres and the standardization of services in the development of water resources;

2. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and the other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with water development to play a catalytic role in promoting projects for technical co-operation among interested developing countries by assisting in formulating and carrying out proposals designed to promote co-operation among developing countries;

V. INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DECADE

1. *Calls upon* Governments to take concrete steps, including the establishment of national committees, to proceed rapidly with the development of rational action plans for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and to attain their respective targets for the Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/18;

2. *Further calls upon* Governments of Member States to give sufficient priority to the Decade in their overall development plans, so that adequate resources for achieving the targets set for the Decade may be made available;

3. *Notes* the progress being made by organizations in the United Nations system in the context of the Decade, in particular the role of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action, in bringing about a concerted approach to these activities and calls upon the inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations con-

¹²⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 10 (E/1981/50).*

cerned to increase their technical co-operation with and financial support for developing countries, so as to bring about a substantial improvement in the level of services in the supply of drinking water and in sanitation by 1990;

4. *Urges* Governments to recognize the role of the resident co-ordinator in carrying out his responsibilities as the focal point for co-operative action for the Decade at the country level and to provide assistance to facilitate that task;

VI. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

1. *Takes note* of the arrangements made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for co-operation and co-ordination at the international level;¹²¹

2. *Takes note* of the guidelines agreed upon by the organizations of the United Nations system for consultation and co-ordination with regard to field project activities,¹²² and looks forward to their implementation;

3. *Recommends* that the United Nations Development Programme and all other programmes and agencies of the system, including the World Bank, engaged in executing technical assistance programmes and projects in developing countries in the field of water resources development funded by the Programme, should ensure the full application of the policies relating to technical co-operation set forth in the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme annexed to General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 and the policies governing the execution of such programmes and projects, *inter alia*, as set out in Governing Council decisions 25/20 of 3 July 1978¹²³ and 79/48 of 10 July 1979,¹²⁴ so as to secure the maximum possible participation, as appropriate, of local technical and material resources, and to place the fullest possible reliance on local resources, including engineering consultants and contractors, wherever they are found competent to handle their task independently or in collaboration with foreign consultants; that in the implementation of these policies due consideration should continue to be given to making local and foreign consulting firms and contractors jointly responsible when the local firm is a major participant; that in appropriate situations the lead/principal role in joint ventures should be given to the major contributors, whether local or foreign firms; and considers that the full implementation of the procedures and rules already established and those which may be agreed upon in the future by the Governing Council of the Programme is essential to improve the effectiveness of the Programme's assistance to the developing countries for enhancing their capabilities of implementing the Mar del Plata Action Plan within the shortest possible time;

¹²¹ See E/1981/37 and Corr.1, para. 23.

¹²² See E/C.7/120, para. 170.

¹²³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 13 (E/1978/53/Rev.1)*, chap. XX.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, 1979, *Supplement No. 10 (E/1979/40)*, chap. XXI.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system, a report, based on existing material, on the progress Governments have made in achieving the goals of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, to be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session, with a view to enabling the Committee to make its contribution in those fields to the first review of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, scheduled for 1984;

5. *Calls upon* the Committee on Natural Resources to review further at its ninth session the overall progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan by Governments and by the United Nations system, simultaneously with the review of the progress made in the attainment of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, to be carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/191 and 35/18 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1957 B (LIX) of 25 July 1975.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/81. Water resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution VII of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,¹²⁵ adopted on 25 March 1977 by the United Nations Water Conference,

Recalling further Council resolution 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which it endorsed, *inter alia*, resolution VII of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Noting with satisfaction that the first Interregional Meeting of International River Organizations, organized by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in co-operation with the Government of Senegal and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River, was held at Dakar from 5 to 14 May 1981;¹²⁶

Considering that the first Interregional Meeting of International River Organizations reached a number of conclusions in fields pertaining to the development, use and protection of international water resources,

Further considering that some conclusions emanating from that Meeting call for the immediate attention of the appropriate United Nations bodies, agencies and organizations,

1. *Urges* States members of existing international river and lake organizations and the secretariats of such organizations to consider furthering the exchange of information on the development, use and protection

¹²⁵ *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.

¹²⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 10 (E/1981/50)*, para. 72.