

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;<sup>121</sup>

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,<sup>122</sup> 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 1978<sup>123</sup> and 79/48 of 10 July 1979,<sup>124</sup> 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;

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

<sup>122</sup> See E/C.7/120, para. 170.

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

<sup>124</sup> *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,<sup>125</sup> 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;<sup>126</sup>

*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

<sup>125</sup> *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.

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

of international water resources by transmitting to the Secretary-General, for systematic collection, analysis and distribution, periodic information concerning activities, projects and programmes of those organizations:

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing budgetary and manpower resources:

(a) To establish within the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development a support function for the collection, analysis and periodic distribution of information concerning the activities, programmes and developments of interested international river and lake organizations;

(b) To prepare a manual on the technical and managerial aspects of the development, use and protection of international water resources, drawing on the competence of the organizations of the United Nations system, as required;

(c) To organize periodically interregional seminars, and to facilitate the exchange of personnel, concerned with specific technical and managerial aspects of the development, use and protection of international water resources;

3. *Urges* the regional commissions to consider, at the request of the Governments concerned, and whenever appropriate, the promotion of training activities for the preparation of qualified cadres of managers, administrators and technicians needed for the development, use and protection of international water resources.

*41st plenary meeting  
24 July 1981*

### **1981/82. Utilization of subsurface space**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Deeply concerned* by the problems of population, urbanization and overcrowding and the need to provide people with food, water and fuel,

*Recognizing* the potential of subsurface space for, *inter alia*, the storage of water, energy, food and other commodities, as well as for water supply, sewage handling and the conservation of energy,

*Taking into account* the experience of the use of subsurface space already available in many parts of the world,

*Requests* the Secretary-General to compile a report on the utilization of subsurface space, with particular reference to the potential benefits to the developing countries, bearing in mind the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources and drawing upon documentation already available, to be considered by the Committee at its eighth session.

*41st plenary meeting  
24 July 1981*

### **1981/83. Control and limitation of documentation**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1979/1 of 9 February 1979, 1979/41 of 10 May 1979 and 1979/69 of 2 August 1979,

which set out, *inter alia*, a number of practical measures designed to reduce the volume of documentation, to ensure its timely circulation in all the working languages of the Council and to improve the format and presentation of Secretariat reports dealing with economic, social and related matters, and approved revised guidelines for the format and contents of the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Council,

*Taking into account* General Assembly resolutions 33/56 of 14 December 1978 and 34/50 of 23 November 1979,

*Deeply concerned* that, despite the above-mentioned measures and the considerable progress made in reducing the length of each document submitted by the Secretariat to a maximum of thirty-two pages, there has been a marked increase in the total volume of documentation requested by intergovernmental and expert bodies, in addition to some extremely serious delays in the submission and circulation of documentation,

*Conscious* of the marginal progress made by both the Council and its subsidiary bodies in streamlining their agendas and programmes of work and in reducing requests for documentation,

*Aware* that the problems related to the control and limitation of documentation are closely linked to the establishment of a rational calendar of conferences and meetings,

*Convinced* that it is desirable to rationalize and improve the calendar, agenda and programme of work of bodies in the economic and social fields by, *inter alia*, considering some items or questions on a biennial or triennial basis, or by ensuring a better distribution of items or questions between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

*Reaffirming* that intergovernmental and expert bodies should keep their requests for documents to the minimum compatible with the efficient conduct of their work and within the limits of the resources available to the Secretariat,

1. *Expresses its deep regret* at the extent to which its work at the second regular session of 1981 was impeded by the late arrival or non-availability of documents;

2. *Reaffirms* the provisions of its resolutions 1979/1, 1979/41 and 1979/69;

3. *Decides* to carry out a thorough review, at its organizational session for 1982, of its agenda and programme of work, with a view to rationalizing and improving them, as well as a review of the documentation requested under the existing legislative authority with respect to items in the biennial programme of work of the Council, in order to determine whether any of it is redundant, has lost its usefulness or could be issued at less frequent intervals;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, together with the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1982-1983, proposals for the consideration of some items or questions on a biennial or triennial basis and suggestions for ensuring a better distribution of some items or questions between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and to indicate the implications thereof, including desirable changes in the