

1979/64. Regional co-operation and development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation and 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling Council resolution 2043 (LXI) of 5 August 1976 on the strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recalling paragraph 26 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, which states that, in order to enable the regional commissions effectively to discharge their responsibilities, the necessary authority should be delegated to them and adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made for their activities,

Recalling Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979, particularly section V thereof, in which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, decided that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies in their own right in respect of the categories of projects described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Convinced of the need for further measures to strengthen the capacity of the regional commissions to promote and support co-operation in their respective regions and to enable them fully to play their role, under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as the main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General, as set out in his report on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions,⁴¹ to approach decentralization as a continuing exercise and as a functional process which should take into full account the distinct mandates and special characteristics of the regional commissions within the over-all structure of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the criteria for decentralization elaborated at the meetings of the Executive Secretaries, as set out in paragraph 26 of that report,

Reiterating the importance of achieving, in the economic and social programmes of the United Nations, complementarity and better co-ordination of the tasks performed at Headquarters and those performed by the secretariats of the regional commissions, as outlined in General Assembly resolution 32/197,

1. Takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and

Social Council resolution 1978/74,⁴² the report of the Secretary-General on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, and the relevant sections of the first progress report of the Secretary-General for 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system;⁴³

2. Invites the Secretary-General to pursue actively the process of decentralization to the regional commissions on the basis of the relevant provisions of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and in the light of the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1978/74 and section V of General Assembly resolution 33/202;

3. Invites the Secretary-General in particular to expedite the decentralization of activities, including the redeployment of the necessary and appropriate resources, in the priority programme areas identified at the meetings of the Executive Secretaries and to report the outcome to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

4. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a comprehensive statement of the administrative and financial implications of the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, calling for decentralization and the strengthening of the regional commissions;

5. Welcomes also the consideration being given by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions to measures for enhancing the collective involvement of the developing countries of each region in determining the priorities for intercountry programmes;

6. Invites the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to undertake at its twentieth session a full review of policy and programme issues relating to the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the regional commissions and other United Nations units, programmes and organs concerned, in preparation, *inter alia*, for the elaboration of the next programme budget and medium-term plan, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1980;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its second regular session of 1980 on measures taken to give effect to the above provisions, and on the following:

(a) The results of consultations on the role of the regional commissions in the determination of priorities for intercountry programmes;

(b) Measures taken to enhance the capacity of the regional commissions to serve as executing agencies for technical co-operation projects, in accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

(c) Steps taken to strengthen the role of the regional commissions in the exercise of team leadership and responsibility for interagency co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level;

(d) Progress made in the rationalization of the structures of the regional commissions;

(e) Measures taken to enhance the role of the

⁴¹ E/1979/76 and Add.1.

⁴² E/1979/32 and Corr.1.

⁴³ E/1979/81.

regional commissions in the strengthening of interregional co-operation.

40th plenary meeting
3 August 1979

1979/65. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and Council resolution 1762 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 on the establishment of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/194 of 29 January 1979 on multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources,

Reaffirming the importance of the Fund as an instrument for assisting developing countries in developing their natural resources,

Bearing in mind the need to intensify further the activities of the Fund,

Recalling further Council decision 1978/53 of 2 August 1978, according to which the review specified in paragraph 1 (m) and (p) of Council resolution 1762 (LIV) will take place in 1981,

Noting draft resolution III contained in the report on the work of the Committee on Natural Resources at its sixth session,⁴⁴

Noting further the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the Fund in 1978⁴⁵ and decision 79/26 adopted by the Governing Council of the Programme on 29 June 1979,⁴⁶

1. *Decides* to establish a working group of government experts to review and analyse the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, in order to assist the Economic and Social Council in carrying out a comprehensive review of the functions, institutional arrangements and repayment system of the Fund;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to appoint the members of the working group, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

3. *Decides* that the report of the working group should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee on Natural Resources;

4. *Decides further* that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should continue as the governing body of the Fund until the completion of the 1981 review of the Fund's operations.

40th plenary meeting
3 August 1979

1979/66. United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1978/61 of 3 August 1978,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/148 of 20 December 1978, in which the Assembly decided to convene an international conference on new and renewable sources of energy under the auspices of the United Nations in 1981,

Having noted the progress report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy,⁴⁷

Noting the report of the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources on the Committee's work at its sixth session,⁴⁸

Welcoming the appointment of Mr. Mohamed Habib Gherab as the Secretary-General of the Conference,

Noting with appreciation the comprehensive statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference,⁴⁹

Emphasizing the importance of the preparations for the Conference at the national, subregional, regional and global levels,

Aware of the importance of developing new and renewable sources of energy in order to meet requirements for continued economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries,

1. *Calls upon* all appropriate organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to extend their fullest support to the preparatory process and to the Conference secretariat;

2. *Recommends* that States should consider designating national focal points which will co-ordinate preparation for the Conference at the national level and provide a link to the Conference secretariat in its preparatory activities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to proceed speedily with the appointment of the technical panels, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 33/148;

4. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session should designate an intergovernmental preparatory body for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy which would be open to the participation of all States as full members and would report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, taking into account in this connexion the corresponding recommendation contained in the report of the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources on the work of its sixth session;⁵⁰

5. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session should consider measures to enhance the readiness of developing countries for the Conference;

6. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session should consider ways in which, pending the holding of the Conference, the United Nations system could more effectively assist the developing countries in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, including research and information relating to the latest technologies and development in this vital area;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a comprehensive report on the preparatory process for the Conference, including a detailed

⁴⁴ See E/C.7/112 (transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbol E/1979/69), chap. I.

⁴⁵ DP/368.

⁴⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 10 (E/1979/40)*, chap. XXI.

⁴⁷ E/1979/98.

⁴⁸ E/C.7/112; transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbol E/1979/69.

⁴⁹ See E/1979/C.1/SR.18.

⁵⁰ See E/C.7/112, para. 28 and chap. I, draft resolution II.