

programme and calendar of proposed activities and of other measures which may be required to meet fully the objectives of Assembly resolution 33/148.

40th plenary meeting
3 August 1979

1979/67. Institutional arrangements for international co-operation at the regional level in implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Water Conference constituting the Mar del Plata Action Plan on integrated water resources development and management,⁵¹ which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977,

Recalling that the United Nations Water Conference, in its resolution VIII, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the water sector",⁵² recommended that a central role should be played by the Economic and Social Council, the Committee on Natural Resources and the regional commissions in their respective regions in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation as a follow-up to the implementation of the Action Plan,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the Assembly called upon the regional commissions to exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level,

Further recalling its resolution 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in paragraph 10 of which it requested the regional commissions to strengthen and intensify their responsibilities in the water sector,

Considering also the proposals contained in the reports of the regional meetings held under the auspices of the regional commissions,⁵³ and particularly taking note of the steps taken in establishing intergovernmental machinery in each region with the aim of expediting the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

1. *Recommends* that:

(a) In the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan on integrated water resources development and management, the regional activities related to water resources undertaken by the specialized agencies and other organizations should continue to take into account the local needs and requirements of the various countries and regions, as requested;

(b) For this purpose, the activities of these agencies and organizations undertaken on the basis of the respective regional programmes should be co-ordinated at the regional level through existing institutional mechanisms or those to be established for the purpose of strengthening their role in that area, as requested;

(c) Projects forming part of such programmes should be specific and concrete, taking due account of the characteristics of the regions involved, and should be presented for discussion through the mechanisms referred to in subparagraph (b) above, as requested;

2. *Urges* the regional commissions that have not already done so to take the necessary steps to establish

an appropriate intergovernmental mechanism as soon as possible;

3. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the regional commissions should be provided with sufficient manpower and financial resources to enable them to discharge the expanded responsibilities assigned to them by the United Nations Water Conference in relation to the execution of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the servicing of their respective bodies dealing with water, and that, should these activities demand additional resources, consideration should be given, *inter alia*, to the redeployment of existing resources;

4. *Recommends further* that, where additional resources are required for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level, the regional commissions should actively explore funding from the regional resources of the United Nations Development Programme for encouraging activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries;

5. *Invites* Governments of Member States to provide substantive technical and logistic inputs to the work programmes of the bodies in the respective regional commissions that deal with water.

40th plenary meeting
3 August 1979

1979/68. Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2115 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which it called upon the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Environment Co-ordination Board to develop in greater detail the administrative and financial aspects of the proposals contained in their report on current and future activities of the United Nations system in water resources development,⁵⁴

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on institutional arrangements for international co-operation for water development;⁵⁵

2. *Emphasizes* the need for the continuing systematic co-ordination of the water-related activities being carried out by organizations of the United Nations system;

3. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, taking into account the matters raised and discussed during the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources,⁵⁶ to recast the draft terms of reference of the proposed Interagency Water Resources Board set out in its report⁵⁷ and to resubmit the question to the Committee on Natural Resources at its seventh session in 1981;

4. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the organizations undertaking water-related activities and, where appropriate, the regional commissions, to make meanwhile the necessary arrangements for intensifying interorganizational co-ordination and co-operation in this programme area and, as a matter of urgency, taking into account the institutional arrangements at their respective levels, to elaborate where ap-

⁵¹ 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.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 78.

⁵³ E/C.7/90-94.

⁵⁴ E/CONF.70/CBP/4 and Add.1 and 2.

⁵⁵ E/C.7/84.

⁵⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 9 (E/1979/39)*.

⁵⁷ E/C.7/84, paras. 33-41.