

further report, based on existing literature, on prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials, with special reference to bentonite, mica, magnesite, feldspar, fluorspar and baryte.

40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983

1983/53. Standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the continuing need for internationally consistent and easily understood statistics on mineral production and consumption,

Taking into account the discussions in the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session on the report of the Secretary-General on the standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources,²³ which summarized the results of the meeting of the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General in pursuance of Council resolution 1979/72 of 3 August 1979,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on the standardization of definitions and terminology for mineral resources;

2. *Notes* that the Council, in resolution 1979/72, requested that the group of experts should report to the Committee on Natural Resources, and expresses its concern that the report, which was unanimously adopted by the group, had been amended by the Secretary-General before it was issued;

3. *Requests*, therefore, that the action to be taken in response to the requests contained in the paragraphs below be based on the report in its original form;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the recommendations in the report relating to the activities of the United Nations in the reporting, compilation and publication of statistics on mineral production and consumption;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider which additional activities would be required to implement those recommendations, including those concerning definitions and terminology for individual minerals and metals, and statistics on the secondary recovery of metals;

6. *Urges* Governments to take into account the recommendations of the group of experts and to give the report the widest possible distribution;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report the progress made in pursuance of the requests contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 above to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session.

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²³ E/C.7/1983/9.

1983/54. Application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of the use of computer processing methods in mineral exploration and development, in particular, but not limited to, remote sensing, geochemistry, ore reserve calculation, mine planning, economic and financial analysis, and data storage and retrieval,

Bearing in mind the advantages that developing countries could derive from a wider application of such techniques,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources²⁴ and of the information on the current activities in this field of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat,

Mindful of the importance of the transfer of technology, in particular new technology, that will strengthen the national capabilities of developing countries,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session on the use of computer techniques, particularly in the developing countries, in the exploration and development of natural resources;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its ninth session on the progress made in the application of such techniques in the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development;

3. *Urges* Governments to consider how the application of such techniques can be strengthened in their mineral exploration and development activities and invites Governments and institutions to provide facilities for seminars and symposia on this subject.

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1983/55. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration;²⁵

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Fund to identify the requirements for feasibility and post-discovery follow-

²⁴ E/C.7/1983/3.

²⁵ DP/1983/34.

up work in order to bring successful exploration projects to the production stage;

3. *Takes note also* of the Fund's evaluation of potential geothermal exploration projects;

4. *Recognizes* the need to increase financial support to the Fund in order to meet effectively the exploration requirements of developing countries.

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1983/56. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the problems caused by the present international economic situation to most countries, in particular the developing countries,

Noting the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to maximize the benefits from the exploration, exploitation and processing of their natural resources in order to strengthen their economic development,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources²⁶ and the comments made thereon by the Committee on Natural Resources at its eighth session,²⁷

1. *Requests* the Committee on Natural Resources to continue to discuss, at its ninth session, the question of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, including:

(a) The strengthening of national capabilities to finance and manage the exploration, exploitation and processing of natural resources for the national benefit;

(b) The promotion of investments in natural resources according to basic priorities;

(c) The identification of new possibilities for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of natural resources;

(d) The conservation of natural resources;

(e) The environment and natural resources;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a further report on the subject of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, taking into account the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above and the comments made by the Committee at its eighth session;

3. *Affirms* in this context the importance of the ongoing work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on a code of conduct for transnational corporations, as it relates to natural resources.

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²⁶ E/C.7/1983/5.

²⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19 and Corr. 1)*, chap. VI.

1983/57. Water resources development: progress and prospects in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling paragraph 4 of section VI of its resolution 1981/80 of 24 July 1981, and other relevant resolutions of the Council and the General Assembly concerning the adoption, implementation and monitoring of the Mar del Plata Action Plan²⁸ and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,²⁹

Recognizing that water resources development is an interdisciplinary and multisectoral process which cuts across many sectors of economic and social development, such as food production, environment and health, energy, human settlements, desertification, industrialization, transport, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and disaster relief,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in the context of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,³⁰ prepared in consultation with the Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in pursuance of paragraph 4 of section VI of Council resolution 1981/80;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the implementation, within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,³¹ of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and notes the progress being made in that context by Governments, with the support of multilateral and bilateral co-operation;

3. *Expresses its concern* that, notwithstanding this progress, the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan has so far been well below the level required to meet the needs of developing countries, in large part owing to the gap between the need for financial resources and their availability;

4. *Urges* Governments of developing countries to assign high priority in their national development planning to the development of their water resources and to take active steps to formulate proposals for financial and technical assistance;

5. *Urges* bilateral and multilateral donors and financing institutions to respond positively to requests from developing countries and to increase, under

²⁸ *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.

²⁹ See General Assembly resolution 35/18.

³⁰ E/C.7/1983/11.

³¹ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.