

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.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

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.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

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.

favourable terms and conditions, the flow of financial assistance to developing countries for the promotion of the development of water resources;

6. *Stresses* the needs of the least developed countries in this context;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organizations concerned, to compile information on the activities of bilateral aid programmes and international organizations and on present capacities and the terms and conditions under which they provide finances for water resources development, with a view to examining possible measures to increase the flow of resources and to improve the terms and conditions, and to disseminating relevant information to countries and international organizations, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session;

8. *Reaffirms* the benefits of establishing national mechanisms to co-ordinate all water policies and programmes;

9. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, in cooperation with the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, to examine measures to promote the accelerated development of water resources in their respective regions;

10. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade should, at its session in 1984, give due consideration to the role played by water resources development in the various elements of the Strategy;

11. *Recommends* that Governments should re-evaluate the current status of their respective resources in surface and ground water, with a view to formulating specific programmes for reaching the targets recommended in the Mar del Plata Action Plan and, on the basis of national evaluation of problems, needs and constraints, indicate requirements in respect of technical assistance and advisory services, equipment, expertise and fellowships;

12. *Urges* Governments of developing countries to adopt national targets for drinking water supply and sanitation services, at the highest possible rate commensurate with resource availability, absorptive capacity and ability, and to formulate action plans and programmes for reaching the targets set, taking also into consideration resolution WHA36.13 of 13 May 1983 of the World Health Assembly;

13. *Recommends* that Governments of developing countries should:

(a) Estimate present and future needs for trained manpower for the development and management of water in agriculture, and take concrete steps to formulate plans and programmes to expand training capabilities;

(b) Evolve plans and programmes for improving the efficiency of agricultural water management, including

appropriate measures to motivate farmers for this purpose;

(c) Promote the development of medium-scale and small-scale village irrigation schemes, so as to form the pool of experience and expertise necessary for the planning and implementation of large schemes;

14. *Recommends* that Governments should intensify efforts to implement the recommendations on industrial water use made at Mar del Plata and, in particular:

(a) Initiate studies on the present and potential use of water by specific industries;

(b) Integrate industrial water use in overall policies and projects for the development of water resources;

(c) Conduct research on the use, treatment and recycling of water;

(d) Evolve appropriate economic and regulatory mechanisms for more efficient water use in industry and waste-water treatment;

15. *Urges* Governments to consider action to integrate plans for the development of hydropower in overall plans for the development of water resources and electric power systems, and provide for improved co-ordination at the national level between the water-related and energy-related institutional frameworks;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to formulate programmes and projects for the improvement of transport on rivers and lakes, and to promote inter-country co-operation in this field;

17. *Recommends* that, with regard to the mitigation of effects from floods and droughts, countries should give high priority to early-warning and forecasting systems, as well as to structural and other measures, and integrate projects for the management of flood and drought losses in overall plans for the development of water resources;

18. *Urges* Governments to take the steps necessary to intensify efforts to develop and utilize appropriate techniques for the assessment and monitoring of the environmental impact of water projects, and to ensure that environmental and human health considerations will be systematically incorporated in the planning, implementation and operation of water schemes;

19. *Recommends* that Governments should direct their efforts towards developing appropriate hydraulic techniques and systems for the rational utilization and conservation of water resources in rural areas, for example, by means of small-scale dams and ponds, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas;

20. *Calls upon* Governments to co-operate fully in promoting education, training and research in the field of water resources, and to give priority to the teaching of science and technology at secondary and university levels, in particular subjects related to this field;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to intensify their catalytic roles

in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of water resources;

22. *Urges* Governments of developing countries to take appropriate steps to co-operate among themselves and with the United Nations system in compiling, in a systematic manner, information on technical co-operation among developing countries and arranging for its dissemination at periodic intervals, in order to provide further stimulus to the promotion of technical co-operation in water development;

23. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the colloquium held at the Centre for Waters at Zagreb on support for the establishment within that Centre of a small international technical unit dealing with technical co-operation among developing countries in the water resources sector, and requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme and other competent agencies, to study the matter further, especially with regard to a review of possible financial sources for non-local cost components, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/58. Utilization of subsurface space

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1981/82 of 24 July 1981,

Deeply concerned by the problems of population, urbanization and overcrowding and the need to provide people with food, water and an adequate energy supply,

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

Taking into account the experience in the use of subsurface space already gained in many parts of the world and in specialized international organizations, and the long lead time required for the planning and construction of subsurface facilities,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of subsurface space and its potential in developing countries,³²

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen support mechanisms in the United Nations for making known the scope with respect to the utilization of subsurface space as a potentially important facet of development activity in developing countries;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the development and utilization of subsurface space and the activities of the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in this area, for the consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/59. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources, as set forth in Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970,

Bearing in mind the debates held in the Committee on the co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,

Reaffirming that one of the principal responsibilities of the Committee is to provide the Council with guidance in the programming and implementation of these programmes;

Recognizing that that guidance relates in part to the avoidance of duplication of effort by ensuring that the programmes of the many organizational units of the United Nations are co-ordinated,

Further recognizing the advantages of co-ordinating the efforts of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system which also carry out work in the natural resources field,

Affirming that the Committee was again unable to discharge this responsibility on the basis of the report submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration at its eighth session,³³

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its future sessions reports that contain an analysis of the level of co-operation and co-ordination among various organs of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources, in order to enable the Committee to identify existing problems, to assess the extent, if any, to which there is duplication of effort, and to formulate appropriate recommendations in this area;

2. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General by providing him with the information needed for the elaboration of the reports referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take full account of the points made in the discussion of this question by the Committee at its eighth session³⁴ and, in particular, to consider how best to avoid duplication of responsibility and effort within the Secretariat.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/60. Development of the energy resources of the developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/251 of 21 December 1982, as adopted, on the development of the energy resources of the developing countries,

³² E/C.7/1983/7.

³³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19 and Corr.1), chap. IX.*

³² E/C.7/1983/7.