

RESOLUTIONS

1985/47. Small-scale mining

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970 setting out the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources, in particular paragraph 4 (g) thereof,

Recognizing the effective contribution of small-scale mining and quarrying to the economic and social development of some countries, in particular as a source of employment and regional development,

Taking note of the fact that in some developing countries much mining is accomplished by small-scale operations, and that many of these operations face special problems, including lack of mechanized equipment, absence of expertise in the exploration for and operation of small mines, legal frameworks that, in some countries, differ from those of large-scale mining, and different marketing circumstances,

Taking note also of the fact that developing countries might benefit from an exchange of information on all aspects of exploration for, assessment of, development and operation of small mines and that continued studies on the problems of infrastructure, equipment and exploitation constitute an important step in finding an optimal scale for mining,

Taking into account the discussions in the Committee on Natural Resources at its last three sessions on fertilizer raw materials and non-metallic mineral resources,

1. *Recommends* that the Committee on Natural Resources, at its eleventh session, should consider small-scale mining in the context of its deliberations on mineral resources;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take small-scale mining into account when preparing reports for the eleventh session of the Committee; those reports should include an overview of small-scale mining and an evaluation of experience gained through technical co-operation projects;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to examine whether there exist small-scale mining operations that could serve as demonstration projects for training and for developing new approaches to small-scale mining, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session;

4. *Urges* Governments to submit to the Secretary-General at an early date information and reports on small-scale mining in their countries.

*52nd plenary meeting
25 July 1985*

1985/48. Mineral resources

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, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling the guidelines for action in the development of natural resources adopted by the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session,¹

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources,²

Recognizing the difficult situation of raw material exporting countries and the negative implications of that situation, particularly for the developing countries,

1. *Requests* the Committee on Natural Resources to consider at its tenth session the question of short-term and long-term trends and salient issues in the field of mineral resources;

2. *Also requests* the Committee to consider ways of increasing the efficiency of the mining sector, *inter alia*, by expanding the exploitation and processing of co-products and by-products.

*52nd plenary meeting
25 July 1985*

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5097 and Corr.1), para. 20.*

² E/CN.7/1985/2.

1985/49. Water resources development

A

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/191 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly requested the Committee on Natural Resources, at its regular biennial sessions during the 1980s, to review the progress made by Governments in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,¹

Recalling also Council resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68 and 1979/70 of 3 August 1979, 1981/80 and 1981/81 of 24 July 1981 and 1983/57 of 28 July 1983, concerning the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Recalling further its resolution 1984/73 of 27 July 1984,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,⁴ and on education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries;⁵

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

3. *Expresses once again its concern* that, notwithstanding the progress achieved with regard to some aspects of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, far greater efforts need to be made, particularly in the African region in view of the present drought;

4. *Urges* Governments to intensify their efforts to develop their water resources, to assign high priority thereto, and to formulate or revise, as appropriate, national policies for the development and rational and environmentally sound utilization of water resources, in the context of their overall development plans, and to translate those policies into specific plans and programmes;

5. *Also urges* Governments to take steps, in the framework of national water plans and policies, to implement the recommendations contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan concerning the assessment of water resources, for which increased efforts are urgently needed in many parts of the world;

6. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to undertake a thorough review of the situation with regard to the development of water resources in the drought-stricken countries of the region, with a view to formulating short-term, medium-term and long-term frameworks for action at the national and international

levels, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session;

7. *Invites* the international conference on hydrology which is to be convened by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Geneva in March 1987 to formulate recommendations and develop programmes designed to assist Governments in the acceleration of their efforts to attain the objectives established by the United Nations Water Conference in the area of water resource assessment;

8. *Urges* Governments to develop public information programmes designed to make planners and decision makers aware of the role of water resources in socio-economic development, and to enhance the participation of the populations concerned in the resolution of major issues related to water;

9. *Also urges* Governments to continue their efforts to formulate or revise their water legislation, in the context of national social and economic objectives, placing emphasis on the conservation of surface and ground water and the protection of water quality;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to investigate, formulate and apply measures for the development of irrigated agriculture which incorporate lower-cost solutions and accelerated returns, including the greater involvement of local populations and institutions, phased investments in a complementary mix of small and large schemes and extensive training programmes, and to draw heavily on a transfer of experience on a regional and, where appropriate, interregional scale;

11. *Appeals* to Governments to strengthen mechanisms for co-ordination among national, regional and local agencies dealing with water resources in order to improve the formulation and implementation of policies and the effective planning, development, management and utilization of water resources;

12. *Draws attention* to the risk of degradation of water and soil resources as a result of increased intensification of land use for agriculture, and stresses the need for associated conservation measures to ensure sustained production and the protection of natural resources and the environment;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of carrying out the recommendations contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan with regard to the assessment of manpower and training needs, and of strengthening, as needed, educational and training programmes and facilities;

14. *Takes note* of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system for the development of integrated and comprehensive approaches and programmes concerning education and training, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to continue his efforts in this regard;

15. *Requests* Governments and the United Nations organizations concerned, other support agencies and non-governmental organizations to intensify their

¹ 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.

⁴ E/C.7/1985/5.

⁵ E/C.7/1985/6.

technical and financial co-operation with developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the drought-stricken countries of Africa, with a view to improving the assessment, development, utilization and management of water resources.

*52nd plenary meeting
25 July 1985*

B

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the fact that 1987 represents the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,⁶

Bearing in mind that some specialized agencies will organize technical meetings in 1987 geared to the discussion of water-related issues stemming from the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal made by the Government of Argentina to sponsor a high-level meeting of experts to propose possible solutions in a number of key problem areas to facilitate the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance in the preparations for and the organization of the meeting, within existing budgetary resources;

2. *Invites* the regional commissions and the specialized agencies to co-operate with the Secretary-General in preparing for the meeting;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session of the results of the high-level meeting.

*52nd plenary meeting
25 July 1985*

1985/50. Application of microcomputer technology in the development of water, energy and mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the rapid growth and the development potential of computer technology, in particular the advent of inexpensive and reliable microcomputers and the need of developing countries for information on hardware, software and training materials,

Bearing in mind the advantages that developing countries could derive from a wider application of such techniques in the implementation of natural resources development policy,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development⁷ and of the information provided on the current activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat in this field,

Taking note also of the progress made in the application of computer technology for the assessment and development of energy and water resources in the developing countries through various technical co-operation activities,

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

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue activities related to the application of microcomputer technology in the assessment, development and planning of natural resources—water, energy and mineral resources—in such areas as the development and dissemination of appropriate software technology;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth and subsequent sessions on the progress made in the application of the technology referred to in paragraph 1 above.

*52nd plenary meeting
25 July 1985*

1985/51. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XX-VIII) 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 Exploration⁸ and requests the Administrator to provide, in his next report, detailed information on deposits discovered;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Fund to promote pre-investment follow-up to its successful mineral discoveries, in close co-operation with the recipient Governments;

3. *Also welcomes* the new activities of the Fund in geothermal exploration;

4. *Recognizes* the urgent requirement to increase financial support to the Fund by means of voluntary contributions;

⁶ 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.

⁷ E/C.7/1985/7.

⁸ DP/1985/46 and Add.1.