

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE NINTH SESSION

(8-17 April 1985)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1985

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I*

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,

Also taking note 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;

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to examine whether there exist small-scale mining operations that could serve as demonstration projects for training and 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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II*

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 of 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.

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

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

2/ E/C.7/1985/2.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III*

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, 3/

Recalling its 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 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 these 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;

* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

3/ 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.

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

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,

Taking into account 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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV*

Application of microcomputer technology in the development
of water, energy and mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the rapid growth and 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 development ^{6/} 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,

Also taking note 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.

* For the discussion, see chap. V.

^{6/} E/C.7/1985/7.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V*

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 7/ 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;
5. Welcomes the efforts made by the Fund to seek co-financing partners as a means of expanding its immediate funding capacity to meet the demands for projects.

* For the discussion, see chap. VI.

7/ DP/1985/46 and Add.1..

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI*

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 to the developing countries,

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

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources 8/ and the comments made thereon by the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session,

Taking into account the work done in other forums of the United Nations system regarding permanent sovereignty over natural resources,

1. Requests the Committee on Natural Resources to continue to consider, at its tenth session, the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources", including:

(a) Strengthening of national capabilities to explore, exploit and process natural resources for the national benefit;

(b) National experience of different countries in developing natural resources;

(c) Impact of the international economic situation on the exploitation of natural resources, particularly in the developing countries;

(d) Promotion of investments in natural resources to meet basic priorities in the developing countries, taking into account, inter alia, the perspectives of national and world markets;

(e) Creation of new industries in developing countries, based on an integrated transformation and industrialization of their natural resources;

(f) Technical and technological developments related to natural resources in developing countries;

(g) Conservation of natural resources;

(h) Environment and natural resources;

* For the discussion, see chap. VII.

8/ E/C.7/1985/8.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a 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 ninth session;

3. Reaffirms, 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.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII*

Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations
system in the field of natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1535 (LXIX) of 27 July 1970, by which it decided to establish the Committee on Natural Resources and set out its terms of reference, specifically charging the Committee to maintain liaison between the activities in the field of natural resources of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and co-operation,

Mindful of the vital contribution made by bilateral and multilateral technical co-operation programmes in enhancing national capabilities in developing countries effectively to explore for, manage and develop their national resource sectors,

Concerned that the Committee should effectively advise the Council in order to ensure maximum co-ordination, and thus the effectiveness and economy of the activities of the United Nations,

Recognizing that co-ordination of technical assistance activities within the United Nations system has significant potential for increasing the efficiency and expanding the results of United Nations and other resource development activities within existing funding constraints,

Observing that available information on United Nations and related activities in natural resources co-operation should be taken into consideration by the Committee in preparing its recommendations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and co-operation in water resources development, 9/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and co-operation in water resources development and requests the Secretary-General to update that report for the tenth session of the Committee;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session a report based, inter alia, on information made available by Governments, documenting United Nations and related activities in mineral resources directed at:

(a) Strengthening national institutions in developing countries for the conduct of exploration, development and planning activities;

* For the discussion, see chap. IX.

9/ E/C.7/1985/10.

(b) Conducting surveys and studies to assist in the identification of mineral resources and the encouragement of their development;

(c) Enhancing national technical capabilities through the transfer and application of necessary technology for the development of basic resource information, and for exploration, assessment and development of natural resources, including the training of both technical and managerial personnel;

3. Requests the Committee on Natural Resources, at its eleventh session, on the basis of the report requested in paragraph 2 above to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on ways to ensure and improve co-operation and the overall efficiency of all those activities;

4. Invites Governments to take that report into account in their activities directed at co-operation in mineral resources.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII*

Rationalization of the work of the Committee on Natural Resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Reiterating the need to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the work of the Committee on Natural Resources,

Reiterating that a timely distribution of documents is essential to an improvement of the efficiency of the work of the Committee,

Reiterating that the Committee could make recommendations on appropriate priorities and programme emphasis to the Economic and Social Council and through the Council to Governments and other bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme,

Reaffirming the terms of reference of the Committee set out in Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970,

Recalling its resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 on the revitalization of the Council and the views expressed on that subject by the Committee at its eighth session, 10/

1. Reiterates that the documents for each session of the Committee on Natural Resources shall be distributed in the appropriate languages at least six weeks before the commencement of the session;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the programme activities of the United Nations system, in particular of the appropriate divisions of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, in the field of natural resources, particularly with regard to mineral resources, energy and water; this information will assist the Committee in fulfilling its analytical and advisory role in the field of natural resources, outlined in its terms of reference;
3. Decides that the Committee shall, as an experiment, give priority at each of its sessions to the examination of one of the main subjects of natural resources set out in paragraph 4 (a) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) on a cyclical basis; in this connection, with due respect for the concept of the sovereignty of every State, attention shall also be paid to the other main subjects, as well as other subjects within the terms of reference of the Committee;

* For the discussion, see chap. XII, sect. E.

10/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 8 (E/1983/19), chap. I, sect. B, decision 8/1.

4. Decides that the Committee, at its tenth session, shall give priority consideration to the subject of water resources;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, to pay special attention to the priority subject of water resources in preparing the documents for the tenth session of the Committee.

B. Draft decision

2. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its ninth
session and provisional agenda and documentation for the
tenth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To take note of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its ninth session;

(b) To approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the tenth session of the Committee set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made by Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (General Assembly resolution 34/191)

Report of the Secretary-General 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 (Council resolution 1983/57)

Report of the Economic Commission for Africa on the review of the situation with regard to the development of water resources in the drought-stricken countries of the region (draft resolution III above)

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme activities of the United Nations system, in particular of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in mineral resources, energy and water (draft resolution VIII above)

4. Mineral resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on short- and long-term trends and salient issues in the field of resources (Council resolution 1761 B (LIV) and draft resolution II above)

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme activities of the United Nations system, in particular of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in mineral resources, energy and water (draft resolution VIII above)

5. Energy resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (Council resolution 1761 B (LIV))

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme activities of the United Nations system, in particular of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in mineral resources, energy and water (draft resolution VIII above)

6. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the application of microcomputer technology in the assessment, development and planning of natural resources - water, energy and mineral resources (draft resolution IV above)

7. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

Documentation

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (Council resolution 1762 (LIV) and draft resolution V above)

8. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (Council resolution 2120 (LXIII) and draft resolution VI above)

9. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of water resources (Council resolutions 1957 B (LIX), 2116 (LXIII) and 1983/59 and draft resolution VII above)

10. Provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the Committee.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session.

C. Decision of the Committee calling for action by the Council

3. The following decision, adopted by the Committee, calls for action by the Council:

Decision 9/1. International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade*

At its 185th meeting, on 17 April 1985, the Committee on Natural Resources decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to transmit the draft resolution annexed hereto to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

ANNEX

International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977 in which it approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference, 11/

Recalling its resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980, by which it proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/57 of 28 July 1983, in which the Council urged Governments of developing countries to adopt national targets for drinking water supply and sanitation services, commensurate with resource availability, absorptive capacity and ability, and to formulate action plans and programmes,

Mindful of the fact that significant progress towards meeting the objectives of the Decade by 1990 will require a much greater sense of urgency and priority on the part of Governments and the continued support of the international community,

1. Welcomes the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the attainment of the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade; 12/

* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

11/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12).

12/ A/40/108-E/1985/49.

2. Encourages Governments to seek to implement the recommendations for action contained in the report, in particular to:

(a) Strengthen national capabilities for policy formulation and for preparation, implementation and monitoring of water supply and sanitation programmes and projects;

(b) Prepare and implement national strategies to meet and develop both present and longer-term needs for skilled human resources;

(c) Intensify efforts to improve the mobilization and utilization of national financial resources;

(d) Increase the attention devoted to health education and community participation and to the need for close operational linkages between health and water supply agencies;

(e) Formulate and implement strategies that will enhance the participation of women in the planning, operation and assessment of water and sanitation programmes and projects;

3. Calls upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations, to continue and, where possible, increase their assistance to Governments in support of national plans and programmes for the Decade as well as in support of efforts to implement the above-mentioned recommendations for action;

4. Urges the international community to take note of the need to enhance co-ordination of technical co-operation activities at the global and national levels and, in this regard, supports the role of the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme as focal points for the Decade at the country level;

5. Takes note of the need to focus efforts and resources on the least developed countries where requirements for drinking water and sanitation are the greatest, and of the need to give special consideration to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, at the end of the Decade, in 1990, to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, a report on the progress achieved during the Decade, providing a detailed comparative analysis based as much as possible on quantitative data, as well as recommendations for future and follow-up action which may be required.

D. Decisions of the Committee brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following decisions of the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 9/2. Mineral resources: prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

At its 185th meeting, on 17 April 1985, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on mineral resources: prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials (E/C.7/1985/3).

Decision 9/3. Trends and salient issues in the development of energy resources

At its 185th meeting, on 17 April 1985, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of energy resources (E/C.7/1985/4).

Decision 9/4. Development and utilization of subsurface space

At its 183rd meeting, on 16 April 1985, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the development and utilization of subsurface space (E/C.7/1985/9).

Chapter II

MINERAL RESOURCES

5. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 175th, 176th and 182nd to 185th meetings, on 9, 10 and from 15 to 17 April 1985. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources (E/C.7/1985/2) and on mineral resources: prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials (E/C.7/1985/3).

6. The item was introduced by the Chief of the Mineral Resources Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He stated that several of the trends identified during the previous session of the Committee still prevailed; assuming that preliminary data for 1984 were correct, consumption of most major metals had increased between 7 and 15 per cent during the period 1983-1984, with the exception of lead, which showed an increase of only 2 per cent. Consumption growth during 1985 was expected to be lower than the 1983-1984 average; up to 5 per cent was likely for some metals - aluminium, copper and zinc.

7. In spite of the rise in consumption, prices had not increased appreciably because substantial stocks had been available and production had remained at about the same level. One exception was the precious metals, in particular gold, a metal in which the mining industry had shown considerable interest since there was a ready market for it.

8. The Chief of the Branch drew the attention of the Committee to the importance of small-scale mining in many developing countries; that sector was characterized by low capital requirements, high employment in relation to output and relatively simple technology for mining and processing. He noted that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had recommended, as part of its proposal for the 1986-1987 regular programme of technical co-operation, a pilot project concerned with exploration for, and development of, small-scale mining.

9. Referring to the report on the prospects for the development of non-metallic minerals, the Chief of the Branch noted that it was a follow-up to a report submitted to the Committee at its previous session and, in response to the request of the Committee, made special reference to bentonite, mica, magnesite, feldspar, fluorspar and baryte. Those non-metallic minerals were of relatively high value, and some of them could be economically consumed not only in the vicinity of the deposits but also at more distant locations. Production of non-metallic minerals generally was desirable in developing countries when they could be substituted for imported products and where export markets were available. He noted that a first step towards assisting developing countries in the development of their non-metallic minerals would be to evaluate known occurrences, taking into account market requirements; the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was prepared to assist in such activities.

A. Trends and salient issues

10. The Committee generally welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources (E/C.7/1985/2) as it contained valuable information. The mineral resources sector was important to many developing countries, and the recent difficulties, related to little increase in consumption and persistent low prices, seriously affected the economies of those countries. Delegations also mentioned, among the major problems, the lack of funding, the unavailability of spare parts and the low productivity in certain operations.
11. Some delegations, while generally noting that the report provided an adequate account of recent trends, suggested that long-term perspectives should also be considered and should be updated for each session of the Committee. In that context, several long-term influences were mentioned - for example, the multiple use of minerals, new technologies and products requiring mineral raw materials, recycling and possible substitution. The decline in consumption during recent years, while in part caused by the recession in developed market economies, was also a result of such long-term developments. The United Nations, it was noted, should report on those developments. One delegation reported that the Council of Copper Exporting Countries had decided, at its recent session, to increase research activities with the aim of finding new applications for copper. Another delegation pointed out that the statistics on world mining investment did not support statements in the report that investment in world mining had declined substantially since the late 1970s.
12. Some delegations noted that the drop in prices caused by demand being lower than supply did not always result in the closure of high-cost mines, which would make it possible to restore the balance between supply and demand, but that, in many countries, particularly when the mines were controlled by the State, the production level was maintained and sometimes even increased, in an effort to maintain export earnings. That policy was understandable but it contributed to keeping prices low. One solution to some of the problems was regional co-operation in the processing of minerals and in the pooling of investment and labour resources.
13. Several delegations said that their countries encouraged the inflow of foreign capital for exploration for, and development of, mineral resources. In particular, more training and transfer of technology was required, as well as more modern equipment to increase efficiency. One delegation noted that a strong public sector was required to develop mines and processing plants.
14. Several delegations referred to the importance of small-scale mining, especially in the developing countries. One delegation noted that its country had a medium-term plan for the development of that sector and had placed special emphasis on it because of depressed prices for mineral products and other economic constraints. Many mineral deposits were small and therefore well suited for such operations. Another delegation referred to a seminar on small-scale mining recently held in the Asian region.
15. Some representatives suggested that the United Nations, and international and bilateral financing and technical co-operation agencies, could play a larger role in the transfer of technology, combined with multilateral adjustment measures. It was suggested that the Committee could discharge its responsibilities more effectively; it could issue specific guidelines for the technical co-operation activities of United Nations organizations and should co-ordinate the activities of those organizations in training and in programming of technical activities.

16. Some delegations referred to the mandate of the Committee in the context of the discussion of problems of mineral resources development. One delegation inquired whether the Committee should be involved in issues related to ocean resources.

B. Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

17. Representatives noted the report of the Secretary-General on the prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials (E/C.7/1985/3) and generally found the information contained therein of great interest to developing countries. One delegation stated that it was reluctant to again request the Secretary-General to prepare such a report as it was doubtful whether the material was of particular interest for planners. The information on some of the minerals was rather general; for example, prices of mica varied more widely - by a factor of 1 to 100 - than indicated in the report.

18. Most delegations supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General that systematic mapping was required to identify non-metallic minerals. One delegation, however, expressed the view that even a junior geologist would have enough experience to identify non-metallic minerals in the field.

19. Some delegations mentioned that information on production volumes, production costs and other details were not generally available, and the Secretary-General's report provided only generalized data. Furthermore, several non-metallic minerals had a large number of applications, each requiring specific properties of minerals. In that context, one delegation referred to the use of non-metallic minerals in advanced materials, such as ceramics, and suggested that the Committee could include that subject in future discussions. It was noted that some non-metallic mineral deposits required special processing technology and that a market for such minerals would have to be developed before commercial production could begin. Another delegation stated that agriculture was another field where expansion of the application of non-metallic minerals was possible.

20. Many delegations suggested that the United Nations should increase its activities in the field of non-metallic minerals. In particular, it should focus on trends of applications in developing countries and on low-grade resources, for example baryte, mica and magnesite. It should be possible to arrange for sharing of experience among countries. In that context, some delegations referred to the experience of their countries in the exploration for, and exploitation of, non-metallic minerals and offered technical co-operation to developing countries that requested it.

21. One delegation noted that the Secretary-General's report had mainly concentrated on the situation in market economy countries. The experience of socialist countries should also be taken into account, and the requirements of the developing countries' economies were not fully considered.

22. Some delegations expressed the opinion that the report of the Secretary-General should have contained more technical details, for example on modern research results. It was further stated that certain minor end-uses, such as the application of bentonite to animal feed, had not been dealt with in the report.

Action taken by the Committee

1. Small-scale mining

23. At the 182nd meeting, on 15 April, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Canada, the Philippines and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Small-scale mining" (E/C.7/1985/L.5).

24. At the 184th meeting on 17 April, the Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the word "important" had been replaced by the word "effective" and the words "all countries" by the words "some countries";

(b) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "in many developing countries most mining" had been replaced by the words "in some developing countries much mining" and the words "in some countries" had been inserted after the words "legal frameworks that";

(c) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "would benefit" had been replaced by the words "might benefit" and, at the end of the paragraph, the following words had been added: "and that continued studies on the problems of infrastructure, equipment and exploitation constitute an important step in finding an optimal scale for mining";

(d) Operative paragraph 1, which had read:

"1. Decides that the Committee on Natural Resources, at its tenth session, shall focus on the theme "small-scale mining" in its consideration of mineral resources",

had been replaced by the following text:

"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".

(e) Operative paragraph 2, which had read:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to take that theme into account when preparing reports for the tenth session of the Committee; those reports should include an overview of small-scale mining, a general description and analysis of the legal frameworks for small-scale mining applied to the exercise of full sovereignty over the exploitation of mineral resources, and an evaluation of experience gained through technical co-operation projects",

had been replaced by the following text:

"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".

(f) Operative paragraph 3, which had read:

"3. Also requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to examine whether there exist small-scale mining operations that could serve as demonstration projects for training and developing new approaches to small-scale mining and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session",

had been replaced by the following text:

"3. Also requests the Secretary-General to examine whether there exist small-scale mining operations that could serve as demonstration projects for training and 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".

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I.)

26. The representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic made a statement.

2. Mineral resources

27. At the 183rd meeting, on 16 April, the representative of Uganda, on behalf of Uganda and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Mineral resources" (E/C.7/1985/L.7).

28. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of Yugoslavia proposed that the last preambular paragraph, which read:

"Recognizing the complexity and the unfavourable character for the developing countries of the present situation regarding consumption, production and prices of raw materials",

should be amended to read:

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

29. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the word "programmes" had been replaced by the words "trends and salient issues";

(b) Operative paragraph 2, which had read:

"2. Also requests the Committee, at its tenth session, to pay more attention to concrete ways of increasing the efficiency of the mining sector, inter alia, by complex use of raw materials and small-scale projects",

had been replaced by the following text:

"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".

30. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended and as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II.)

3. Mineral resources: prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials

31. Also at its 185th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on mineral resources: prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials (E/C.7/1985/3). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 9/2.)

Chapter III

ENERGY RESOURCES

32. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 178th, 179th and 185th meetings, on 11 and 17 April 1985. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of energy resources (E/C.7/1985/4).

33. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in his statement at the opening meeting, observed that, although enhancing the efficiency with which energy was used was an essential area for policy action by the developing countries in the years ahead, probably the most important challenge facing those countries was the rationalization and expansion of domestic production of energy.

34. He stated that for some developing countries, especially those in which the development of energy resources at the primary level was well under way, the expansion of domestic production required the extension of national operations into the production of intermediate and final products. One of the major impediments to success in that endeavour had been securing access to the requisite technology. Another impediment was the threat of protectionist sentiment in developed countries with regard to imports of refined petroleum products and petrochemicals from developing countries. He noted that both of those issues had been discussed at some length in the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1985/4). For most developing countries, however, the rationalization of energy production implied, at least initially, the bringing into use of domestic resources, that is, the development of productive capacity at the primary level. For those countries, too, the transfer of technology constituted a pressing problem. Perhaps of even greater concern, however, was the difficulty encountered in obtaining the requisite financing, even for fully economic projects for the development of energy resources. That matter had also been considered in the report of the Secretary-General.

35. The Chief of the Energy Unit of the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in introducing the report of the Secretary-General, described the work and functions of the Department in the area of energy, which included: (a) research and analysis in the international context; (b) following-up and reporting on activities and financial flows in the area of new and renewable sources of energy and providing support services to the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy to enable it to monitor and promote the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action; ^{13/} (c) collection and compilation of global statistics of energy; (d) reporting on energy in the context of the World Economic Survey; (e) system-wide planning and co-ordination activities; and (f) co-operation in the substantive servicing of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. He also described the energy-related work both of the Ocean

^{13/} Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

Economics and Technology Branch of the Department and of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. In addition, the Department was organizing the United Nations Symposium on the Financing of Petroleum Exploration and Development in Developing Countries, in co-operation with the Government of Greece.

36. He stated that, broadly speaking, the two years since the eighth session of the Committee had not been especially favourable ones for the development of energy resources, since underlying conditions had generally been counter-productive. Energy markets had been relatively weak and interest rates, although exhibiting considerable fluctuations, had, on the average, remained high. Those general factors had influenced trends in the development of particular sources of energy.

37. He drew attention to the various lines of policy action available to promote energy resource development identified in the report of the Secretary-General. For example, there was a need to give renewed attention to the flow of external support to the developing countries for the development of energy resources. Further consideration would be given to that important matter in the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session in accordance with Assembly resolution 39/176 of 17 December 1984. The Committee might wish to bring to bear its technical expertise in that regard and make appropriate suggestions to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

38. Finally, he observed that the Committee might wish to give further consideration to certain topics introduced in the report, which were in the nature of problems shared by many countries or which involved significant international aspects. For example, in the former category was the problem of effecting the development of energy resources in rural areas which provided both home and work-place for a large part of mankind; in the latter category was the difficulty posed by excess downstream petroleum production capacity in the developed market economies and the danger posed by the mounting protectionist pressures inherent in such capacity. The Committee might wish to give one or more of these topics special consideration at its tenth session.

39. In the discussion that followed, almost all delegations noted the comprehensiveness and usefulness of the information provided by the Chief of the Energy Unit in his introductory statement and commended the overall quality of the report of the Secretary-General. Several delegations noted that they would have liked the report to include more information on new and renewable sources of energy. Several delegations expressed their regret that the report had not been received in their capitals prior to the meeting, and one delegation drew attention to errors in the French translation. One delegation questioned the statement by the Chief of the Energy Unit to the effect that large-scale, low-cost energy resources existed in developing countries. Another delegation noted that it would have liked the report to contain more information on the co-ordination of United Nations activities in the field. A delegation emphasized the need for including in reports on energy resources evaluation at the global level of future energy demand and supply.

40. Several delegations commented on the development of energy resources in their countries. Most reported impressive accomplishments in terms of the expansion of domestic production of energy, and several described national programmes for the more efficient use of energy. Most delegations, however, noted that satisfying the needs for energy remained a serious constraint on the economic development of their countries.

41. The emphasis in the report of the Secretary-General on the development of energy resources in rural areas drew favourable reactions from several delegations which stressed the importance of that issue both in their countries and to a very large part of mankind. One delegation, however, expressed the view that such issues should be dealt with in regional forums because the energy sources in rural areas varied significantly.
42. Several delegations stated that the development of energy resources could be meaningfully considered only in the context of a broad long-term review of the entire energy sector and suggested that the Secretariat should keep that in mind when dealing with more specific energy questions.
43. Several delegations said they agreed with the statement in the report that the lack of finance represented the single greatest obstacle to the development of energy resources in the developing countries, and expressed the hope that the international community would strive to reach agreement on the need to increase the number of channels for the flow to developing countries of capital for such development. One delegation said that the only real way of alleviating the problem of finding funds and increasing additional financial resources for the development of projects in the field of energy was by taking concrete steps towards disarmament and by utilizing part of the funds thus realized for financing economic development, including the development of energy resources.
44. Several delegations spoke of the importance of foreign exchange markets in determining the effective price of energy in their countries. One delegation said that, in its country, the local price of oil had not fallen in proportion to the fall in the price of oil in United States dollars because of the recent strength of the dollar in currency markets.
45. Some delegations referred to the trade-offs that were sometimes possible in the development of energy resources. For example, one delegation noted that, in its country, nuclear power was an economic substitute for coal-generated electricity in some areas that were distant from coal fields. Other delegations drew attention to the fact that sometimes basic trade-offs must be weighed between concern for environmental quality and the need for energy production. One delegation noted that animal wastes could be employed either as a source of energy or as a source of fertilizer and that it was sometimes possible to utilize low-grade coal or peat as a substitute energy source.
46. Some delegations emphasized the need for vigorous governmental action for the development of energy resources in developing countries; others stressed the role to be played by the private sector. Several delegations stated that the evolution of broad political and social relations among countries and the pace of scientific progress were major determinants of the rate of development of energy resources throughout the world.
47. A number of delegations noted that the immediate prospects for the development of energy resources had worsened for both energy-surplus and energy-deficient developing countries: in the former, owing to excess petroleum refining capacity; in the latter, owing to the burden of external debt.

Action taken by the Committee

Energy resources

48. At its 185th meeting, on 17 April, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in the development of energy resources (E/C.7/1985/4). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 9/3.)

Chapter IV

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN AND THE INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DECADE

49. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 179th to 181st, 184th and 185th meetings, on 11, 12 and 17 April 1985. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the attainment of the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (A/40/108-E/1985/49), on the progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (E/C.7/1985/5) and on education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries (E/C.7/1985/6).

50. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in his opening statement, drew attention to the challenge posed by the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 14/ and to the need to advance the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. While progress had been evident in some respects, the inadequate development, utilization and management of water resources in general, and the inadequate drinking water supply and sanitation services in developing countries, imposed a heavy burden on populations and a serious constraint on socio-economic development. He drew attention to the acute problems faced by the Governments of countries in the African region, in particular of countries south of the Sahara, and to the need to develop medium-term and long-term policies and programmes, as distinct from emergency relief measures.

51. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (E/C.7/1985/5) and on education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries (E/C.7/1985/6). With regard to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, he said that although significant progress was evident in some areas progress in other areas had been minimal or even lacking. Greater efforts than those witnessed so far would be required of Governments and the international community in order to make significant advances in meeting development needs in this field.

52. While many Governments had formulated national policy statements or were in the process of doing so, many of those statements had not been readily translated into master plans. Moreover, there had been a failure to establish and implement adequate operational and maintenance procedures, including those geared towards generating the necessary financial resources for that purpose. None the less, progress had been made in the co-ordination of the activities of national water agencies and the development of national water legislation. Progress had also been recorded with regard to co-operation in the development of water resources shared by two or more States and the mitigation of losses from floods; there had, however, been a lack of progress in the assessment of water resources and of the use of water for agriculture and a significant decline in the rate of increase of irrigation output attributable to new or rehabilitated agriculture.

14/ 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.

53. With regard to education and training, surveys and assessments had not been undertaken in recent years in more than half of the developing countries. Moreover, there had been limited improvement since 1980 with regard to the availability of manpower and adequacy of its skills, particularly as regards higher level technicians. The Governments of one fifth of the developing countries were of the opinion that those problems remained critical.

54. The Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in his capacity as Chairman of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action of the organizations of the United Nations system, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the attainment of the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (A/40/108-E/1985/49). He stated that in the first half of the Decade, much progress had been made despite the difficult international economic situation. Governments had strengthened their resolve to achieve their objectives for the Decade and had made great strides in improving their institutional infrastructure and in bringing about better co-ordination of the activities of national agencies dealing with drinking water supply and sanitation. Of most importance was the greater attention being given to the use of low-cost and appropriate technology, to the greater involvement of women in the planning, operation and maintenance of facilities and to increased community participation in general. The progress made with regard to sanitation, however, had not been commensurate with that made in the area of drinking water supply; in fact, very little progress had been registered with regard to rural sanitation.

55. In the second half of the Decade, still greater attention would be required for the strengthening of institutional arrangements, the utilization of cost-efficient and appropriate technologies, the recovery of operational and recurrent costs, and the operation and maintenance of systems. A greater co-ordination of efforts among Governments and the international community was essential to ensure the orderly formulation and implementation of policies and programmes to which a clear set of priorities should be attached. He called on the Committee to formulate a framework for action during the second half of the Decade, for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

56. During the discussion, a number of delegations noted, and agreed with the conclusions in the reports of the Secretary-General that, while significant progress had been made in some respects, the overall situation with regard to the development of water resources remained critical. The progress made fell seriously short of the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in particular as regards Africa. It was emphasized that the international economic crisis, the Sahelian drought and the other disasters of the past few years had further handicapped the efforts made by many African Governments to achieve the objectives of the Plan and the goals of the Decade.

57. One delegation expressed the view that, given both international and external constraints on the socially appropriate development of water resources, only the State was in a position to establish clear policy and legislation, within the context of nationally centralized co-ordinating organs, for the rational use and protection of water resources. Other delegations pointed out that, in their national efforts, certain cost-related policies were especially critical for such development.

58. The importance of community participation as a continuing key factor in this field, in terms of project implementation and conservation, was emphasized. All parties concerned were urged to take the role and contributions of women into account in efforts to achieve the goals of the Decade. The need for a long-term process of education of the population as a prior condition to responsible and effective social conservation of water resources was also stressed.

59. Several delegations drew attention to the difficulties experienced in achieving a successful outcome in the provision of education and training for the development of water resources at the national and regional levels. They noted the lack of progress made in that regard and stressed the need for the formulation of long-term programmes for the development of human resources.

60. Several delegations expressed their disappointment at the continued serious deficit in domestic funds and external financing, including the decline in external concessional financing. Closely linked to capital financing was the felt need for intensification of bilateral and multilateral technical co-operation, particularly in connection with the strengthening of institutions and the development of manpower and for the transfer and acquisition of appropriate technology.

61. In order to overcome the difficulties impeding implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, one delegation stressed the need for a follow-up to and revitalization of the Plan. It was suggested that revitalization should involve the preparation of further criteria for the development of water resources, more precise guidelines for Governments in this area and a revision of the Plan, based on the experience gained to date, in order to permit its more effective implementation. It was also felt that the identification of the critical obstacles to the implementation of the Plan was a prerequisite for future action. The Committee was informed by the delegation of Argentina that, for the purpose of promoting the revitalization of the Plan, its Government had been discussing with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat the value of holding a high-level meeting of experts, the conclusions of which could be a contribution to a forthcoming session of the Committee on Natural Resources. The hope was also expressed that the participation of the regional commissions and the specialized agencies would be possible before, during and after the meeting.

62. In a discussion of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, it was suggested that a concrete and practical approach was needed, involving the better maintenance and utilization of existing facilities, the fuller integration of simple drinking water and sanitation projects and health services, and greater attention to human resource training and community participation. Since they could provide essential support, the strengthening of local institutions dealing with water was deemed critical. For specific national objectives, it was stated that more attention should be paid at the international level to co-ordination and co-operation that would assist in integrating water resource projects more effectively into broader national development efforts. The need for better co-ordination and co-operation between recipient and donor countries in efforts to achieve the targets of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade was also stressed. This was felt to be especially important in the exchange of information on project evaluation and research, which would serve to improve the future coherency of various aid programmes. More regular consultations between local water authorities and bilateral and multilateral donors were also considered essential for increasing chances of success in joint project design and implementation efforts.

63. The representatives of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in response to questions raised by delegations, provided the Committee with a summary of the activities of their organizations in the development of water resources in Africa.

Action taken by the Committee

1. Water resources development

64. At the 184th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Ghana, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, introduced draft resolutions entitled "Water resources development: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan" (E/C.7/1985/L.12). Subsequently, Liberia joined in sponsoring the draft resolutions.

65. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of Bolivia informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

Draft resolution A

(a) In operative paragraph 5, after the word "formulating", the words "a long-term framework" had been replaced by the words "short-, medium- and long-term frameworks"; the order of operative paragraphs 5 and 6 had been reversed;

(b) In operative paragraph 8, the word "Further" before the word "urges" had been deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 14, the words "Further urges" had been replaced by the words "Appeals to"; the paragraph had been renumbered 11; and existing operative paragraphs 11-13 had accordingly been renumbered 12-14;

(d) In operative paragraph 15, the words "Governments and" had been inserted after the word "Requests";

Draft resolution B

In operative paragraph 1, the phrase "in co-operation with the Secretary-General after the words "to sponsor" had been deleted; operative paragraphs 1 and 2 had been combined to read as follows:

"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";

operative paragraphs 3 and 4 had been renumbered accordingly.

66. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee stated that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

67. The Committee then adopted the draft resolutions, as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.)

2. International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

68. Also at the 184th meeting, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Australia, Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, the Sudan, Turkey and Uganda, introduced a draft decision entitled "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade" (E/C.7/1985/L.13).

69. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of Bolivia informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, it had been agreed that, in operative paragraph 3, of the draft resolution transmitted to the General Assembly, the words "national plans and programmes for the Decades as well as in support of" would be inserted after the words "to Governments in support of".

70. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. C, decision 9/1.)

Chapter V

NEW TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING, FOR IDENTIFYING, EXPLORING AND ASSESSING NATURAL RESOURCES

71. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 177th, 182nd, 183rd and 185th meetings, on 10 and from 15 to 17 April 1985. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development (E/C.7/1985/7).

72. The item was introduced by the Chief of the Minerals Resources Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He said that special emphasis had been placed on the use of microcomputers and that the report reflected the important role played by such computers. He noted that small computers had become very useful tools because they could be made available to most countries, and were built in some developing countries; they were relatively easy to use by the non-specialist; needed little maintenance; and, with suitable software, could now perform many tasks which a few years before could be done only by large computers.

73. Delegations noted that microcomputers could play an important role with respect to developing mineral resources and that there was insufficient use of them in the mineral resources policy planning area and in such areas as simulation analyses, data analyses and developing data banks.

74. Several delegations noted the dramatic reduction in the cost of microcomputer systems in the recent past and cautioned countries against implementing large-scale computer systems, since it was believed that technology soon to be available would make such systems obsolete in the area of regional data bases. The technology referred to was that of laser disk recording devices for the bulk storage of information.

75. Some delegations raised the question what role the United Nations should play in disseminating information about the rapid advances in technology and proposed that the activities of the Department in that area should be encouraged so that technology could be more effectively used in developing countries. Delegations were especially interested in the question what to do with obsolete hardware and suggested that consideration should be given to the possible uses of depreciated machines. Several representatives said that their countries were manufacturing computers domestically.

76. With respect to software availability, one delegation expressed concern that a lack of software was holding up development. A delegation said that its country would support the United Nations in the establishment of a special fund to finance the development of software.

77. One delegation suggested that the report could have been expanded to include details of various computers available and their characteristics, and of the characteristics of computer languages and computer packages. It was further suggested that specifics could be given for preparing geological information and that the cost of information services demanded could be as much as or more than the cost of the equipment.

78. A delegation suggested the establishment of regional data centres and mentioned the possibility of international exchange of software packages. Another delegation pointed out that the SPOT remote-sensing satellite which would be launched in October 1985 would make it possible to carry out vertical and lateral observations within a 475-kilometre band on each side of its ground track with a resolution of 10 to 20 metres.

79. Some delegations supported the Secretary-General's recommendation (E/C.7/1985/7, para. 114) concerning the organization of workshops and seminars with the objective of training personnel from developing countries at all levels in computer applications in natural resources development. Special attention was drawn to the seminars on computer applications that were to be organized by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in New York in co-operation with the Government of Japan, and in Canada in co-operation with the Government of Canada. Some delegations referred to already planned seminars on the application of electronic data processing in energy planning and mineral exploration and development.

80. Responding to suggestions that there was a need to examine the problems caused by the rapid obsolescence of computer hardware and that a balance was required between the policy of acquiring new equipment at needless expense to replace serviceable obsolescent equipment and the policy of keeping in use obsolescent equipment that was expensive to maintain, the Chief of the Branch said that the Department would review those issues in relation to mineral sector needs and programmes.

81. In response to the comments of a representative concerning the computer and information systems used by socialist countries, he noted that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development would make available to developing countries any such information supplied to the Department.

Action taken by the Committee

Application of microcomputer technology in the development of water, energy and mineral resources

82. At the 182nd meeting, on 15 April, the representative of Chile introduced a draft resolution entitled "Application of microcomputer technology in the development of water, energy and mineral resources" (E/C.7/1985/L.6).

83. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of Czechoslovakia informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the word "cheap" had been replaced by the word "inexpensive" and, at the end of the paragraph, the words "and the need of developing countries for information on hardware, software and training materials" had been added;

(b) In the last preambular paragraph, the word "appropriate" had been inserted before the words "new technology";

(c) In operative paragraph 1, the words "technical co-operation" before the word "activities" had been deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 2, the word "session" had been replaced by the words "and subsequent sessions" and the words "in the technical co-operation activities" after the words "the technology" had been deleted.

84. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV.)

Chapter VI

UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION

85. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 182nd, 183rd and 185th meetings, from 15 to 17 April 1985. It had before it the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration in 1984 (DP/1985/46 and Add.1).

86. The Director of the Fund, in introducing the report, recalled the important role the Committee had played in the establishment of the Fund. He noted that the Fund had made commendable achievements during the 10 years of its operational activities, exemplified by the discovery of potential economic mineralization in 7 of 13 completed projects. He provided some current examples of how the Fund was working actively with recipient Governments to move from discoveries to the feasibility, investment and production stages, thereby enabling the developing countries to benefit from discoveries and the Fund to earn a replenishment contribution. Despite a difficult investment climate in mining, the Director was optimistic that some of the Fund's mineral discoveries could attract investment in the near future.

87. Turning to the Fund's new activities in geothermal exploration, the Director informed the Committee of very promising exploration targets in two countries for which projects had been developed. Both projects, if successful, would lead to the rapid development of electric power generation, an important factor in project selection. Co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat in the identification of geothermal exploration targets was mentioned, as well as the use of its specialized expertise in the mining sector. While recognizing the Fund's present difficult financial situation, the Director was optimistic that, given the high level of the Fund's performance and the demand for new projects, the donor community would begin to respond with increased voluntary contributions.

88. During the discussion that followed, several delegations raised questions concerning the project selection criteria of the Fund.

89. One delegation from an important mining country expressed appreciation to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Fund for their assistance and interest in developing new projects in both mineral and geothermal exploration. The delegation noted that, despite the present problem of low commodity prices, there was a need for developing countries to explore for new natural resources.

90. Questions were raised by several delegations concerning the way in which the Fund after 10 years of operational activities evaluated its performance and concerning the prospects for production from its successful mineral discoveries.

91. A related question raised by one delegation concerned the prospect of the revolvability of funding, since that was considered an important feature of the Fund. With regard to project results, one delegation was pleased that specific information on grade and tonnage had been presented by the Fund on one of its projects and requested that, in future, similar information should be presented on

other projects. There were other queries about the work programmes of specific projects. One delegation asked if the Fund had a policy on small-scale mining.

92. With regard to management and financial considerations, one delegation welcomed the Fund's emphasis on tight management control of the programme and the zero real growth of administrative costs but expressed concern that more attention was not given by member countries to increasing voluntary contributions and supporting co-financing arrangements. Another delegation said that administrative costs seemed relatively high compared with the annual level of voluntary contributions.

93. In providing clarification on some of the questions raised, the Director and the Technical Manager of the Fund pointed out that project selection, in accordance with the Fund's mandate, was based on the potential for contributing to the economic development of requesting countries and their ability to help achieve the revolving nature of the Fund. Some of the mineral discoveries of the Fund were particularly well suited to small-scale mining operations. While the Fund was very keen to see its mineral discoveries go into production and was assisting host Governments in their efforts to attract investment, it recognized that 10 years or more were normally necessary to achieve that result. Potential values and tonnages were outlined for discoveries made in Argentina and Ecuador since both those countries had given permission to the Fund to make such information available to potential investors. Given its successful operational record, the Fund was optimistic that its efforts would soon lead to commercialization in some projects, despite the low commodity price levels for some metals. Given the target of \$10 million in annual income and programme expenditure, the Fund's administrative overhead would be considerably reduced.

Action taken by the Committee

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

94. At the 183rd meeting, on 16 April, the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of Bolivia and Japan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration" (E/C.7/1985/L.10).

95. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of France proposed the insertion of the words "and requests the Administrator to provide, in his next report, detailed information on deposits discovered" at the end of operative paragraph 1.

96. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V.)

Chapter VII

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

97. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 174th, 175th, 183rd and 185th meetings, on 9, 16 and 17 April 1985. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/C.7/1985/8).

98. The item was introduced by the Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He noted that consideration by the Committee of the question attested well to the importance attached by all countries, in particular the developing countries, to maximizing the benefits that could be derived from the exploration for, and exploitation of, their natural resources. He mentioned that, for the first time, the Economic and Social Council had provided specific guidelines on the issues to be considered by the Committee, which included (a) the strengthening of national capabilities to finance and manage the exploration, exploitation and processing of natural resources, (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, and (d) questions of conservation and environmental impact (Council resolution 1983/56). He mentioned that the report also discussed recent developments regarding dispute settlement and renegotiation as they related to the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

99. Citing the critical situation in Africa in regard to water availability and drought, he referred to the relationship between permanent sovereignty over natural resources and the use of ground-water and surface-water resources at the local, national and international levels, including conservation aspects and pollution control. Ground-water resources were characterized, inter alia, by widespread and relatively permanent availability, even in semi-arid and arid regions; prevailing good quality if adequately protected; the potential of aquifer systems for long-term storage of water; and the amenability of such aquifer systems to staged development. Government objectives in the implementation of permanent sovereignty over natural resources related, inter alia, to technical and institutional aspects, including provision of data bases for the design of projects; strengthening of Government services; emergency well-drilling programmes; ground-water pilot projects; and transfer of knowledge and technology and training of personnel at all levels.

100. With respect to surface waters shared by two or more countries, optimum utilization was still, in general, a distant goal. Taking into account the rapidly growing demand for water, and persisting problems related to conflicting uses, pollution and environment, resources committed to those tasks were inadequate. The Director mentioned in that context that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was the focal point for the collection and dissemination of information on international rivers and lakes. The Department had also provided assistance in the assessment and development of ground-water resources, organization of ground-water services, ground-water policy and planning, and training and transfer of technology. For surface waters, such activities had included regional and subregional planning, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, and review of existing institutional arrangements.

101. Over the previous 25 years, such activities had helped to improve the living conditions of several million people, largely in underprivileged areas. The

Committee, he said, could ask how it could promote and strengthen sovereignty over natural resources, in particular water resources. He believed that, after the Secretary-General had reported on those issues, it could provide guidelines, inter alia, on policies and technologies geared to optimizing efficient water use in water-deficient areas; review of personnel requirements and training needs; water surveys in highly populated and disaster areas; guidance to Governments on the selection of appropriate water resource projects; and promotion of remote-sensing techniques for pre-project planning.

102. In closing, the Director referred, inter alia, to Committee decision 8/1 of 17 June 1983 on the future work of the Committee. In addition to continuing the review, sharing and transmitting of technical information in the natural resources and energy sectors, the Committee was invited to consider new priorities and novel strategies in the development of natural and energy resources. The Committee, he said, might wish to consider and identify critical issues that required international attention.

103. Representatives who participated in the discussion took note of the information on recent developments in the field of permanent sovereignty over natural resources contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1985/8). Most of the delegations participating in the discussion considered the issue of permanent sovereignty an essential and very important element of the work of the Committee and of great interest to countries. However, some other delegations did not share that view. Several delegations linked the implementation of the principle of permanent sovereignty to the wider issue of economic development generally. Some delegations stressed, in that context, the importance of the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism and nazism which had made possible, inter alia, the exercise by all countries of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. While some delegations considered the report objective and factual, others believed that the treatment of the impact of transnational corporations on the development of natural resources in developing countries was one-sided and did not highlight a number of important trends and facts related to the issue of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, on which many delegations commented at length. It was noted that developing countries, having in most cases achieved political independence, were now trying to achieve economic independence, and permanent sovereignty over natural resources was a major component of those efforts.

104. One representative, referring to section III of the report, on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, specifically subsection B on international river basins, said that it contained information that was imprecise and erroneous and listed theories that had been the object of notorious controversy and could not, therefore, be considered an adequate basis for international co-operation. She also said that the report elaborated on matters currently under consideration by the International Law Commission and that its contents could not constitute a basis for a recommendation by the Committee. With regard to the negotiations on the code of conduct on transnational corporations, she believed that the information provided in the Secretary-General's report might lead to a confusing and erroneous assessment of negotiations being conducted in another United Nations forum.

105. Some delegations referred to the negative influence exercised by the high indebtedness of many developing countries, the low level of prices of mineral and energy commodities and the high interest rates to be paid by developing countries. Some considered that the main obstacle to an effective development of natural

resources was the lack of investment from foreign sources, while others noted that foreign investment could be stimulated by the assurance of stable conditions in the legal framework, suggesting that the United Nations could encourage certain trends in that respect.

106. State mining enterprises were generally considered to play an important role in the exploration for, and development and operation of, mining and processing installations. One delegation, however, noted that those enterprises had often declined considerably as a result of poor management by the State sector. While some delegations believed that the public sector should be given a larger role, others noted that the public and private sectors could each provide useful contributions to the success of the minerals sector. One delegation mentioned that its country's mining sector comprised three different ownership alternatives, namely, public, private, and co-operative agreements between the two.

107. Some delegations referred to the continuing efforts of developing countries to achieve economic independence and their struggle for full exercise of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and mentioned in that context the rights of the peoples in the illegally occupied territories of Namibia and the Palestinian and other Arab territories.

108. Some delegations referred to the discussion of certain political aspects of permanent sovereignty over national resources in other organs of the United Nations and believed that an overlapping of responsibilities should be avoided. One delegation said that the Committee on Natural Resources should concentrate on technical discussions.

109. Nationalization was generally considered to be an important aspect of the exercise of permanent sovereignty over natural resources. While some delegations stated that developing countries enjoyed the right to nationalize enterprises within their jurisdiction, others noted that under international law compensation would be required. Some delegations said that permanent sovereignty was directly linked to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. One delegation, however, stated that nationalization should be non-discriminatory, for a public purpose and followed by prompt, adequate and effective compensation.

110. One delegation stated that it would have preferred the report of the Secretary-General to contain more information on the activities of the United Nations related to technical co-operation so that the needs of developing countries could be better reflected in the discussion. One delegation requested concrete suggestions from the Secretariat on assistance to Governments and state enterprises and suggested that detailed information on contractual conditions with foreign investors could be disseminated.

Action taken by the Committee

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

111. At the 183rd meeting, on 16 April, the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of Bolivia, Burkina Faso, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, India, Liberia, Mexico and Uganda, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources" (E/C.7/1985/L.8).

112. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of Czechoslovakia informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

(a) In the last preambular paragraph, after the words "natural resources", the words "in particular the code of conduct for transnational corporations being negotiated by the Commission on Transnational Corporations" had been deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 1 (c), which had read:

"(c) Impact of the international economic situation on the exercise by the developing countries of control over the exploitation of their natural resources",

had been replaced by the following text:

"(c) Impact of the international economic situation on the exploitation of natural resources, particularly in the developing countries";

(c) Operative paragraph 1 (d), which had read:

"(d) Promotion and rationalization of investments in natural resources to meet basic priorities in the developing countries",

had been replaced by the following text:

"(d) Promotion of investments in natural resources to meet basic priorities in the developing countries, taking into account, inter alia, the perspectives of national and world markets";

(d) In operative paragraph 2, the word "further" before the word "report" had been deleted.

113. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI.)

114. The representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America made statements in which they expressed reservations concerning the draft resolution.

115. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan.

Chapter VIII

UTILIZATION OF SUBSURFACE SPACE

116. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 175th and 183rd meetings, on 9 and 16 April 1985. It had before it the progress report of the Secretary-General on the development and utilization of subsurface space (E/C.7/1985/9).

117. The item was introduced by the Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. He recalled that the Committee at its eighth session had had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1983/7) that reviewed general activities in the field of subsurface space with a view to highlighting the potential of that little-used resource. He said the report before the Committee gave a brief indication of ongoing developments in developing countries. For example, it included a list of 27 subway systems that were being planned, designed or constructed, and an indication of developments in the use of underground space for storage of food and for public utilities. The report also included a summary of the activities in subsurface space of various organizations of the United Nations system, as well as recommendations concerning steps to be taken to bring the potential uses of subsurface space more effectively to the attention of the developing countries. He brought to the attention of the Committee one of those recommendations, on creating an awareness of the uses of subsurface space by providing expert advisory services to interested Member States (see E/C.7/1985/9, para. 29 (a)).

118. During the discussion, one representative stated that the report submitted to the Committee at its eighth session had included a mixture of activities that were not new. He indicated that the present report was not complete and that the Committee was not the appropriate forum for the discussion of that question. He said, for example, that channelling of water had been done in Roman times, and that underground food storage had been used for centuries, especially in Europe. He added that it was unnecessary to mention ground-water or mining activities as they had little relevance to the use of subsurface space, and that while the activities of several United Nations entities were described in the report, only those undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency had any bearing on the subject. He concluded that the Committee should centre its attention on new and innovative activities.

119. Another representative commented on section II.B of the report, on the activities of the Economic Commission for Europe, and said that more attention should be paid to finding ways to increase the storage of petroleum gases. He expressed the opinion that the Committee should help to create an awareness of that problem, as information was meagre, rather than on the uses of subsurface space, such as subway systems, food storage and so on.

120. One representative suggested that, in future, the use of subsurface space should be dealt with as an integrated part of other major topics (for example, water, minerals), rather than as a separate agenda item. He endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

Action taken by the Committee

Utilization of subsurface space

121. At the 183rd meeting, on 16 April, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the development and utilization of subsurface space (E/C.7/1985/9). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 9/4.)

Chapter IX

CO-ORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

122. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 179th, 180th, 181st, 183rd and 185th meetings, on 11, 12, 16 and 17 April 1985. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and co-operation in water resources development (E/C.7/1985/10).

123. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination drew attention to the various mechanisms in the United Nations system at the global and regional levels and between two or more agencies. He stated that experience had shown that those arrangements had, since the United Nations Water Conference, provided the means for expanded co-operation recommended by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1979/67. He also pointed out that co-operation and co-ordination with regard to technical co-operation activities were of particular importance, as the allocation of projects or parts thereof had important implications both for the efficient implementation of projects and for the optimization of the technical capability of the system.

124. During the subsequent discussion, some delegations expressed appreciation for the manner in which the United Nations system had responded to the need for co-ordination and co-operation in a field that did not fall neatly or wholly within the mandate of any single organization. In view of the separate and specialized responsibilities within the system, the continued co-ordination of system efforts in water resources development was seen as essential by a number of delegations. In that regard, it was felt that the report of the Secretary-General should have contained more details concerning the activities of the organizations of the system. The oversight and orientation role of the Committee, as central for co-operation in natural resources, was stressed.

Action taken by the Committee

Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

125. At the 183rd meeting, on 16 April, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Chile, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Uganda and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources" (E/C.7/1985/L.9).

126. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of the Netherlands informed the Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, after the words "United Nations" the words "and those of bilateral and multilateral programmes of technical co-operation and assistance in natural resources" had been deleted;

(b) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "within the United Nations system" had been inserted after the words "technical assistance activities";

(c) The fifth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Observing that available information on bilateral and multilateral activities in natural resources co-operation is insufficient to permit a high level of co-ordination",

had been replaced by the following text:

"Observing that available information on United Nations and related activities in natural resources co-operation should be taken into consideration by the Committee in preparing its recommendations";

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the words "and requests the Secretary-General to update that report for the tenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources" had been inserted at the end of the paragraph;

(e) The first part of operative paragraph 2, which had read:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its tenth session a report documenting current and planned bilateral and multilateral activities in mineral resources related to",

had been replaced by the following text:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its eleventh session a report based, inter alia, on information made available by Governments documenting United Nations and related activities in mineral resources directed at";

(f) In operative paragraph 3, the word "tenth" had been replaced by the word "eleventh";

(g) Operative paragraph 4, which had read:

"4. Appeals to Governments to submit reports and information to the Secretary-General on bilateral programmes and projects in the field of mineral resources in their countries or involving their countries"

had been replaced by the following text:

"4. Invites Governments to take that report into account in their activities directed at co-operation in mineral resources".

127. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII.)

128. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, Brazil and Uganda made statements.

Chapter X

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

129. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 185th meeting, on 17 April 1985. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a draft provisional agenda for its tenth session, together with the list of requested documentation (E/C.7/1985/L.3).

130. The attention of the Committee was drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, in which the Council had decided that restraint should be exercised both in the Council and in its subsidiary bodies in making new requests for documents and that recurrent documents should be requested only when the nature of the subject made that indispensable.

131. In resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982, the Economic and Social Council had endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council should also be streamlined in order to enable them to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them.

Action taken by the Committee

132. At the same meeting, the Committee, on the proposal by the Chairman, decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to take note of the report of the Committee on its ninth session and to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its tenth session, as completed in the light of resolutions adopted by the Committee. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision.)

Chapter XI

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS NINTH SESSION

133. At its 185th meeting, on 17 April, the Committee adopted the draft report on its ninth session (E/C.7/1985/L.4 and Add.1-7), as revised and amended during the discussion.

Chapter XII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

134. The Committee on Natural Resources held its ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 17 April 1985, during which it held 14 meetings (172nd to 185th meetings).

135. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development.

B. Membership and attendance

136. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 A (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Committee is composed of 54 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Three members from Asian States, one member from Latin American States and one member from Western European and other States remain to be elected.

137. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

138. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Belgium, Benin, Cuba, Peru, Poland, Sweden.

139. The following regional commissions were represented: Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Western Asia.

140. The following United Nations organizations, bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Development Programme, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

141. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

142. The International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, and the Bahá'í International Community and Pax Christi, International Catholic Peace Movement, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II, were also represented.

C. Election of officers

143. At its 172nd, 174th and 175th meetings, on 8 and 9 April 1985, the Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairman: Rodolfo del Rosario (Philippines)

Vice-Chairmen: Mary Carrasco (Bolivia)
Václav Oklestek (Czechoslovakia)
Reinder J. Brolsma (Netherlands)

Rapporteur: Philip Maingi Mwanzia (Kenya)

D. Agenda

144. At its 173rd meeting, on 8 April, the Committee adopted the agenda for the session (E/C.7/1985/1), which is reproduced in annex I below.

145. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session (E/C.7/1985/L.2).

E. Rationalization of the work of the Committee

146. At its 184th meeting, on 17 April, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Committee on Natural Resources" (E/C.7/1985/L.14), submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Reinder Brolsma (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations. Operative paragraphs 2-4 of the draft resolution read as follows:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the activities of the relevant divisions of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, in the field of natural resources, in particular with regard to mineral resources, energy and water;

"3. Decides that the Committee at its tenth session will, on a trial basis, give priority to the examination of one of the main subjects within its terms of reference, namely, water resources; due attention shall also be paid to the other main subjects, mineral resources and energy, and other subjects within the terms of reference of the Committee;

"4. Requests the Secretariat, in preparing the documents for the tenth session, to pay special attention to the priority subject of water resources."

147. At the 185th meeting, on 17 April, the representative of the Netherlands informed that Committee that, during informal consultations, the following revisions had been agreed upon:

(a) Operative paragraphs 2-4 had been changed to read:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the programme activities of the United Nations system, in particular of the appropriate divisions of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department

of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of natural resources, particularly with regard to mineral resources, energy and water; this information will assist the Committee in fulfilling its analytical and advisory role in the field of natural resources outlined in its terms of reference;

"3. Decides that the Committee shall, as an experiment, give priority at each of its sessions to the examination of one of the main subjects of natural resources set out in paragraph 4 (a) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) on a cyclical basis; in this connection, with due respect for the concept of the sovereignty of every State, attention shall also be paid to the other main subjects, as well as other subjects within the terms of reference of the Committee;

"...

"5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, to pay special attention to the priority subject of water resources in preparing the documents for the tenth session of the Committee";

(b) A new operative paragraph had been inserted after operative paragraph 3, reading as follows:

"4. Decides that the Committee, at its tenth session, shall give priority consideration to the subject of water resources".

148. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII.)

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE NINTH SESSION

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Mineral resources:
 - (a) Trends and salient issues;
 - (b) Prospects for the development of non-metallic raw materials.
4. Energy resources development: trends and salient issues.
5. Water resources development: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.
6. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and assessing natural resources.
7. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.
8. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources.
9. Utilization of subsurface space.
10. Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources.
11. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Committee.
12. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS NINTH SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
A/40/108-E/1985/49	5	Progress in the attainment of the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade: report of the Secretary-General
DP/1985/46 and Add.1	7	Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for 1984
E/C.7/1985/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/C.7/1985/2	3 (a)	Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1985/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1985/4	4	Trends and salient issues in the development of energy resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1985/5	5	Water resources: progress achieved and prospects in the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1985/6	5	Education and training in the field of water resources in developing countries: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1985/7	6	Application of computer technology in mineral exploration and development: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1985/8	8	Report of the Secretary-General
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E/C.7/1985/L.14	2	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Reinder Brolsma (Netherlands)

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