



# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTY-THIRD SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 11**

**UNITED NATIONS**  
New York, 1977

379 (XVII) NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE LATIN AMERICAN  
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Economic Commission for Latin America

Aware of the fundamental importance of the development and utilization of natural resources in the economic and social development process,

Recognizing the urgent need to accelerate progress in research and the integrated management of these resources with a view to their effective utilization and protection,

Recalling its resolution 302 (XIV) of 5 May 1971 and 337 (XV) of 30 March 1973 on natural resources,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 572 (L), which provides that the Council's Committee on Natural Resources should deal with the development of all forms of natural resources, with particular attention to the development of water, energy and mineral resources, and which urges the secretariats of the regional economic commissions to co-operate in the relevant studies,

Also bearing in mind the provisions on natural resources contained in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) on the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1956 (LIX) on permanent sovereignty over natural resources and 1957 (LIX) on the comprehensive plan of action and co-ordination of programmes in the United Nations system in the field of natural resources development,

Taking note of resolution VI of the United Nations Water Conference requesting the Economic and Social Council, in considering the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, to ensure that the regional commissions play a central role within their respective regions, in promoting inter-governmental co-operation in the management and integrated development of water resources,

Considering that the recommendation of that Conference on "Action at the regional level - Special recommendations for particular regions" took note of the "Lima Consensus on Water Problems", adopted at the regional preparatory meeting held from 30 August to 3 September 1976, and transmitted it to CEPAL so that it could take appropriate measures,

Considering that the Economic and Social Council, at its sixty-third session, is to study the recommendations of the Water Conference which, subject to its approval, will be transmitted to the General Assembly, taking into account the process of restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recognizing the work which the Secretariat has been doing in recent years in the sphere of research on non-renewable natural resources, water and energy,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To intensify the work being done by the secretariat in the field of natural resources, and particularly water, mineral and energy resources, such as:

(i) collection and dissemination of technical and economic information on the identification and development of these resources;

(ii) helping to improve statistical information systems and systems of vocational training for government technical personnel participating in the formulation of strategies and plans in the above-mentioned sectors;

(iii) regional and sub-regional prospective surveys of the demand for and supply of natural resources, as well as other research helping to identify the role of these resources in development and environmental protection;

(iv) facilitative mutual co-operation between developing countries and between public enterprises in the developing countries of the region in matters of common interest;

(v) collaboration with Governments in the preparation of studies aimed at developing these resources in the countries of the region;

- (b) To co-ordinate CEPAL's work and co-operate, when necessary, with the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, the United Nations Development Programme, the Committee on Natural Resources of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Environment Programme and regional intergovernmental bodies;
  - (c) To take note of and carry out, as far as possible, the recommendations made to CEPAL in the "Lima Consensus on water problems".
  - (d) To make further studies in co-operation with UNEP, with a view to ensuring the rational utilization of natural resources in Latin America, thereby avoiding the destruction of resources which could reduce the productive capacity of the region;
2. Endorses the request made in resolution VI of the United Nations Water Conference to the Economic and Social Council to the effect that the General Assembly should consider the possibility of allocating additional funds for the secretariat of CEPAL in the United Nations budget, for the purposes mentioned in the above paragraphs with regard to water resources.

201st meeting  
5 May 1977