

**1996/306. Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Committee**

At its 50th plenary meeting, on 25 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session;<sup>216</sup>

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Committee set out below, subject to any changes that might be requested, taking into account the review of the role and working methods of the Committee and its relationship with other bodies in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

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

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination.

*Documentation*

Separate reports of the Secretary-General on water and mineral resources, respectively, focusing on progress made towards achieving sustainable development, describing the coordination and integration of activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and the success of the programmes in meeting the goals set

4. Review of actions implemented by Governments following the consideration by the General Assembly of the comprehensive global water assessment.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world

5. Issues related to assessment and management of land and water resources on an integrated basis

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on issues related to the spatial planning of land (including minerals) and water resources

6. Environmental protection and restoration issues arising from mineral industry activities.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on the development and application of state-of-the-art technologies for the utilization/reprocessing of mineral industry wastes with the aim of reducing the ecological burden on the environment

7. Issues related to the social and economic impacts of the mining sector, especially in developing countries and economies in transition.

*Documentation*

Discussion paper of the Secretary-General, prepared with the assistance of members of the Committee, on the basic problem of improving the capacity of developing countries and economies in transition to capture the maximum economic and social benefits of their potential for mineral production

8. Authoritative technological assessment of progress towards the sustainable extraction and utilization of minerals.

*Documentation*

Oral report by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on their consultations together and with appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations with a view to forging a partnership to fulfil the proposed technological functions in a comprehensive and authoritative way

9. Global land monitoring programme.

*Documentation*

Oral report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme on their consultations, in the light of the inter-sessional strategy paper of the Committee on Natural Resources entitled "Towards the sustainable supply of minerals in the context of

<sup>216</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 11 (E/1996/31).*

Agenda 21",<sup>217</sup> the existing blueprint and experience with the Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme of the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS/WATER), with a view to formulating a plan for cooperation with national agencies in order to develop a global geochemical database

10. Global knowledge base on mineral resource potential.

*Documentation*

Oral report on the results of the consultations between the United Nations Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the regional commissions and the international mining industry on their consideration of the detailed requirements of a global knowledge base on mineral resource potential, in the light of the inter-sessional strategy paper of the Committee on Natural Resources entitled "Towards the sustainable supply of minerals in the context of Agenda 21",<sup>217</sup> and ways in which such a knowledge base might be achieved, including initiation through a regional pilot project

11. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee.
12. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session.