

1996/49. Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that Agenda 21¹ called for, *inter alia*, the identification of balanced patterns of consumption worldwide that the Earth could support in the long term,

Recalling also that, in Agenda 21 and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,²⁴ it is stated that the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances,

Noting that the policy implications of trends and projections in consumption and production patterns were evaluated in a report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session in 1996,¹⁷ and that the Commission endorsed the eco-efficiency approach and stressed the need for an appropriate balance between supply-side and demand-side approaches,

Noting also that in its inter-sessional strategy paper entitled "Towards the sustainable supply of minerals in the context of Agenda 21",¹⁸ the Committee on Natural Resources analysed the implications of those policy approaches for the minerals sector in terms of the capacity of the environment to absorb the physical and chemical impacts of minerals resource use, the sustainability of the supply of essentially non-renewable mineral resources, and the possibilities for modifying production and consumption patterns throughout the mineral cycle by introducing greater efficiency of minerals use, new technologies, recycling and substitution,

Recalling that those minerals issues impinge heavily on developing countries and economies in transition that seek to capture greater benefits from mineral development, and consequently recalling also the need to avoid undesirable impacts on those economies,

1. *Brings to the attention* of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the relevant United Nations bodies and the regional commissions the inter-sessional strategy paper of the Committee on Natural Resources entitled "Towards the sustainable supply of minerals in the context of Agenda 21";

2. *Takes note*, in principle, of the recommendations for concrete action contained in relevant resolutions of the Committee on Natural Resources, and recommends consideration of the means of their implementation, within

existing resources, through the relevant priority programmes and by maximizing the opportunities for collaboration among interested parties.

*50th plenary meeting
25 July 1996*

¹⁷ E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1.

¹⁸ E/C.7/1996/11.