

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER
NATURAL RESOURCES*
[December 17, 1973]

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

A/RES/3171 (XXVIII)
5 February 1974

Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/9400)]

3171 (XXVIII). Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the inalienable right of each State to the full exercise of national sovereignty over its natural resources has been repeatedly recognized by the international community in numerous resolutions of various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating also that an intrinsic condition of the exercise of the sovereignty of every State is that it be exercised fully and effectively over all the natural resources of the State, whether found on land or in the sea,

Reaffirming the inviolable principle that every country has the right to adopt the economic and social system which it deems most favourable to its development,

Recalling its resolutions 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, 2158 (XXI) of 25 November 1966, 2386 (XXIII) of 19 November 1968, 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, 2692 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 and 3016 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, and Security Council resolution 330 (1973) of 21 March 1973, which relate to permanent sovereignty over natural resources,

*[Resolution 3171 (XXVIII) was adopted by a vote of 108 in favor to one against, with 16 abstentions. The recorded vote appears at page 240.]

Recalling, in particular, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/ which proclaims that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind,

Considering that the full exercise by each State of sovereignty over its natural resources is an essential condition for achieving the objectives and targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade, and that this exercise requires that action by States aimed at achieving a better utilization and use of those resources must cover all stages, from exploration to marketing,

Taking note of section VII of the Economic Declaration of the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973, 2/

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, 3/

1. Strongly reaffirms the inalienable rights of States to permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, on land within their international boundaries as well as those in the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof within their national jurisdiction and in the superjacent waters;
2. Supports resolutely the efforts of the developing countries and of the peoples of the territories under colonial and racial domination and foreign occupation in their struggle to regain effective control over their natural resources;
3. Affirms that the application of the principle of nationalization carried out by States, as an expression of their sovereignty in order to safeguard their natural resources, implies that each State is entitled to determine the amount of possible compensation and the mode of payment, and that any disputes which might arise should be settled in accordance with the national legislation of each State carrying out such measures;
4. Deplores acts of States which use force, armed aggression, economic coercion or any other illegal or improper means in resolving disputes concerning the exercise of the sovereign rights mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 3 above;
5. Re-emphasizes that actions, measures or legislative regulations by States aimed at coercing, directly or indirectly, other States or peoples engaged in the reorganization of their internal structure or in the exercise of their sovereign rights over their natural resources, both on land and in their coastal waters, are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the

1/ See General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

2/ A/9330, p. 66.

3/ E/5425 and Corr.1 and E/5425/Add.1.

Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) and contradict the targets, objectives and policy measures of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 4/ and that to persist therein could constitute a threat to international peace and security;

6. Emphasizes the duty of all States to refrain in their international relations from military, political, economic or any other form of coercion aimed against the territorial integrity of any State and the exercise of its national jurisdiction;

7. Recognizes that, as stressed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1737 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, one of the most effective ways in which the developing countries can protect their natural resources is to establish, promote or strengthen machinery for co-operation among them which has as its main purpose to concert pricing policies, to improve conditions of access to markets, to co-ordinate production policies and, thus, to guarantee the full exercise of sovereignty by developing countries over their natural resources;

8. Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-sixth session, to consider the report of the Secretary-General mentioned in the last preambular paragraph above and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a supplement to that report, in the light of the discussions that are to take place at the fifty-sixth session of the Council and of any other relevant developments, and to submit that supplementary report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

2203rd plenary meeting
17 December 1973

4/ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

YES - ABSTAIN - NO	YES - ABSTAIN - NO	YES - ABSTAIN - NO	YES - ABSTAIN - NO
<input type="checkbox"/> Afghanistan _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecuador _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Kuwait _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Romania _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Albania _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Egypt _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Laos _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rwanda _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Algeria _____	<input type="checkbox"/> El Salvador _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Saudi Arabia _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Argentina _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Equatorial Guinea _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesotho _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Senegal _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Australia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Leone _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Austria _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiji _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Libyan Arab Republic _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Singapore _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bahamas _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finland _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Luxembourg _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Somalia _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bahrain _____	<input type="checkbox"/> France <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Madagascar _____	<input type="checkbox"/> South Africa _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbados _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Gabon _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Malawi _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Spain ** _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Belgium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Malaysia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sri Lanka _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bhutan _____	<input type="checkbox"/> German Dem. Rep. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Maldives _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudan _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Germany, Fed. Rep. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mali _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Swaziland _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Botswana _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Malta _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweden _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Greece <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mauritania _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Syrian Arab Republic _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulgaria _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guatemala _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mauritius _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Thailand _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Burma _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guinea _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mexico _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Togo _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Burundi _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guyana _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mongolia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Trinidad and Tobago _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Byelorussian SSR _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Haiti _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Morocco _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tunisia _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cameroon _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Honduras _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Nepal _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hungary _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Netherland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Uganda _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Central African Rep. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Iceland _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ukrainian SSR _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chad _____	<input type="checkbox"/> India _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> USSR _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chile _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Niger _____	<input type="checkbox"/> United Arab Emirates _____
<input type="checkbox"/> China _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Iran _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Nigeria _____	<input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Colombia * _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Iraq _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Norway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Un. Rep. of Tanzania _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Congo _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ireland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Oman _____	<input type="checkbox"/> United States _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Costa Rica _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Israel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistan _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Volta _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuba _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Panama _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Uruguay _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cyprus _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ivory Coast _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Paraguay _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Venezuela _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Czechoslovakia _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Jamaica _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Peru _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yemen _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dahomey _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Japan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippines _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yugoslavia _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Yemen _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Jordan _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Poland _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Zaire _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Denmark <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenya _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Portugal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Zambia _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dominican Republic _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Khmer Republic _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Qatar _____	

* Later advised the Secretariat it had intended to vote in favour.
** Later advised the Secretariat it had intended to abstain.