

Forum: The Economic and Social Council

Question of: Setting a framework for the production and trade of rare earths

Submitted by: Russian Federation

Co-submitted by: San Marino, China, Guatemala, Argentina, Togo, Austria
Colombia, Ghana, Italy, Estonia, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, Bolivia, Benin, Kazakhstan, DR
Congo, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Greece, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Croatia, Nepal, Congo, Trinidad and
Tobago, Finland, Haiti, Uganda, Sweden, Mauretania, India



- 1 The Economic and Social Council,
2
3 *Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
4
5 *Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation in order to create a free and fair trade market
6 for rare earth elements (REE) in the face of unequal distribution of REEs,
7
8 *Realizing* that REEs are a driving factor of technological development in countries with natural resources
9 and in the rest of the world,
10
11 *Realizing* also that REEs are a crucial resource in the armament industry, which makes a broad access
12 important in order to maintain a balance of power,
13
14 *Alarmed* by the WTOs inquiry REEs market operations and legislations of sovereign countries,
15
16 *Noting* with appreciation that some of the Member States invest in developing and improving mining
17 methods for REEs,
18
19 *Observing* that the majority of the international supply of REEs relies on just a few Member States,
20
21 *Bearing in mind* that huge natural deposits remain unexploited until the present day,
22
23 *Acknowledging* that the setting of a framework for the production and trade of REEs depends upon the
24 participation of countries all around the globe,
25
26 *Confident* that the assembled Member States are working together to find the best possible resolution
27 to address the future problems of the distribution of REEs,
28
29 1) **Calls upon** all Member States to promote free, independent and fair trade as a future
30 guideline for REEs;
31
32 2) **Encourages** the Member States to support free trade guidelines and national
33 sovereignty beyond the WTO ruling because no state should ever be
34 overruled by a majority decision;
35

- 36 3) **Urges** the member states to fight and persecute those who mine rare earths illegally
37 and to not only punish the perpetrators, but to also punish those who buy, and
38 therefore encourage, illegal mining of rare earths;
39
- 40 4) **Calls for** the establishment of an “Organization of REE exporting countries” (OREEC)
41 a) which can be joined only by countries contributing at least 0.1% of REE
42 exports worldwide
43 b) in which every member of the United Nations with natural REE reserves
44 can ask for help in building up mining infrastructure and therefore
45 will be granted access to scientific knowledge of OREEC
46 member states if
47 i) a majority of OREEC member states approves
48 ii) future exports are guaranteed
49 iii) future exports will pay back 50 percent of the
50 expenses made to support and help the country within
51 20 years
52 c) which provides a platform to strengthen the position of each individual
53 member state
54 d) is to be recognized by all member states of the United Nations
55 e) with the goal of long term price and production stability in order to
56 i) give OREEC countries production security
57 ii) give importing countries security of supply
58 f) in which each member state has one vote
59 g) in where decisions can only be made by unanimity
60 h) in where at least three quarters of the member states have to be
61 present for binding economic or political decisions
62 i) with regular meetings four times a year as well as irregular meetings in
63 case of an unpredicted crisis if necessary in order to
64 i) classify changes in the market
65 ii) discuss new production margins
66 iii) discuss technical improvements
67 iv) discuss trade restrictions concerning of possible
68 armament production
69 j) which is responsible to connect REE exporting and importing states and
70 therefore promoting a cooperation under the “Agreement on Mining
71 and Trade of REEs “(AMTREE)
72 k) which monitors the worldwide REE trade with special focus on
73 i) the terms and conditions of the “Agreement on Mining
74 and Trade of REEs “(AMTREE)
75 ii) investment in the field of research and technology
76 iii) development of environmental standards such as
77 improving waste management
78 iv) market development
79 l) which sends independent observers of all member states to REE
80 exporting countries
81 i) on regular missions to assist technological development
82 ii) on irregular missions to secure a high standard of
83 production

- 84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
- iii) also on irregular missions to supervise environmental and human right standards
 - m) which guarantees a seat with full veto right to a member of each third of REE importing countries, which are not member of the OREEC, measured by GDP per capita
 - n) which entertains a fund worth 100 million U.S. dollar annually which are
 - i) dedicated to research on REE production
 - ii) paid by OREEC countries proportional to their market share in percent
 - iii) distributed by a committee on research within the OREEC;
- 5) **Affirms** the OREECs willingness to create a fair, equal and sustainable market for REE exporting and importing countries;
- 6) **Calls for** the negotiation of an “Agreement on Mining and Trade of REEs “(AMTREE) to
- a) find binding terms and conditions under which OREEC and importing states can trade REEs
 - b) protect the OREECs production guidelines which shall provide
 - i) a greater self determination of REE exporting countries
 - ii) means of support to countries struggling to build up a REE industry
 - c) create a fair marketplace for all countries in which
 - i) states and their respective companies can bargain directly with the OREEC for their own benefits under the protection of the AMTREE treaty
 - ii) no single country has the power to prevent or infringe the trade between sovereign nations and companies and the OREEC
 - d) control trading concerning the production of weapons,
 - e) fight illegal mining on by international cooperation;
- 7) **Recommends** the “Agreement on Mining and Trade of REEs “(AMTREE) to be negotiated between countries and the OREEC on a neutral basis and to be understood as an open and unbiased process;
- 8) **Declares** accordingly that the character of the “Agreement on Mining and Trade of REEs “(AMTREE) should be of a free and fair nature which includes
- a) the option for any Member State to withdraw from this treaty upon three months written notice to the other parties
 - b) the option for any Member State to attend any negotiations in which the treaty could be changed
 - d) the option for any Member State to withdraw from the treaty after changes,

132
133
134
135
136

- e) that decisions on clauses of the AMTREE treaty are made by simple majority;
- 9) **Further invites** all UN Member States to join the “Agreement on Mining and Trade of REEs “(AMTREE) in cooperation with the OREEC.