



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.135/21
20 June 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PEACEFUL
USES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR
BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

India: draft declaration of legal principles governing the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the uses of their resources in the interests of mankind

The General Assembly,

Noting that developing technology is making the sea-bed and the ocean floor and subsoil thereof, accessible and exploitable for scientific, economic, military and other purposes,

Recognizing the common interests of mankind in the sea-bed and the ocean floor, which constitute the major portion of the area of this planet,

Believing that the exploitation and use of the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof should be carried out for the betterment of mankind and for the benefit of States irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Desiring to contribute to broad international co-operation in the scientific as well as in the legal aspects of the exploration and uses of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor,

Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between nations and peoples,

Mindful of the importance of preserving the sea-bed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof from actions and uses which might be detrimental to the common interests of mankind,

Recognizing that the exploration and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof should be conducted in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, in the interests of maintaining international peace and security and for the benefit of all mankind,

Mindful of the provisions and practice of the law of the sea relating to this question,

Recalling its resolution 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967,

Convinced that, pending the conclusion of a Treaty regulating the administration and utilization of the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, in the common interests of mankind, it is necessary to set forth the principles applicable in this regard,

Declares as follows:

1. The exploration and use of the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, shall be carried on for the benefit and in the interests of mankind;

2. The sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, are the common heritage of mankind. As such, they are not subject to national appropriation and shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of all countries, particularly the developing countries;

3. The activities of States in the exploration and use of the sea-bed and ocean floor shall be carried out in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interests of maintaining international peace and security and for promoting international co-operation and understanding;

4. Taking into account the work currently being performed by other bodies, the United Nations shall endeavour to provide direction and purpose to international and inter-governmental activities with regard to the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction.