



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.135/25  
28 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

United States of America: draft resolution containing  
statement of principles concerning the deep ocean floor

The General Assembly,

Desiring to encourage the exploration, use and development of the deep ocean floor to the fullest extent possible for the benefit and in the interest of all mankind,

Believing that such exploration and use of the deep ocean floor will contribute to international co-operation and understanding,

Convinced that no nation, regardless of geographical location, level of economic development, or technological capability, should be denied the opportunity to participate in the exploration and use of the deep ocean floor,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the general welfare of all peoples, and of furthering scientific study and the conservation of resources,

Reaffirming the traditional freedoms of the high seas under international law,

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

Commends to States for their guidance the following principles concerning the deep ocean floor:

1. No State may claim or exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part of the deep ocean floor. There shall be no discrimination in the availability of the deep ocean floor for exploration and use by all States and their nationals in accordance with international law;

2. There shall be established, as soon as practicable, internationally agreed arrangements governing the exploitation of resources of the deep ocean floor.

These arrangements shall reflect the other principles contained in this Statement of Principles concerning the Deep Ocean Floor and shall include provision for:

(a) the orderly development of resources of the deep ocean floor in a manner reflecting the interest of the international community in the development of these resources;

(b) conditions conducive to the making of investments necessary for the exploration and exploitation of resources of the deep ocean floor;

(c) dedication as feasible and practicable of a portion of the value of the resources recovered from the deep ocean floor to international community purposes; and

(d) accommodation among the commercial and other uses of the deep ocean floor and marine environment;

3. Taking into account the Geneva Convention of 1958 on the Continental Shelf, there shall be established, as soon as practicable, an internationally agreed precise boundary for the deep ocean floor - the sea-bed and subsoil beyond that over which coastal States may exercise sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration and exploitation of its natural resources;

Exploitation of the natural resources of the ocean floor that occurs prior to establishment of the boundary shall be understood not to prejudice its location, regardless of whether the coastal State considers the exploitation to have occurred on its "continental shelf";

4. States and their nationals shall conduct their activities on the deep ocean floor in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation, scientific knowledge, and economic development;

5. In order to further international co-operation in the scientific investigation of the deep ocean floor, States shall:

(a) disseminate, in a timely fashion, plans for and results of national scientific programmes concerning the deep ocean floor;

(b) encourage their nationals to follow similar practices concerning dissemination of such information;

(c) encourage co-operative scientific activities regarding the deep ocean floor by personnel of different States;

6. In the exploration and use of the deep ocean floor States and their nationals:

(a) shall have reasonable regard for the interests of other States and their nationals;

(b) shall avoid unjustifiable interference with the exercise of the freedom of the high seas by other States and their nationals, or with the conservation of the living resources of the seas, and any interference with fundamental scientific research carried out with the intention of open publication;

(c) shall adopt appropriate safeguards so as to minimize pollution of the seas and disturbance of the existing biological, chemical and physical processes and balances;

Each State shall provide timely announcement and any necessary amplifying information of any marine activity or experiment planned by it or its nationals that could harmfully interfere with the activities of any other State or its nationals in the exploration and use of the deep ocean floor. A State which has reason to believe that a marine activity or experiment planned by another State or its nationals could harmfully interfere with its activities or those of its nationals in the exploration and use of the deep ocean floor may request consultation concerning the activity or experiment;

7. States and their nationals shall render all possible assistance to one another in the event of accident, distress or emergency arising out of activities on the deep ocean floor.

-----