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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 on the
international decade of ocean exploration

The General Assembly,

Recalling its concern for ascertaining practical means to promote international co-operation in the exploration, conservation and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, as manifested in its resolution 2340 (XXII),

Recalling as well that in its resolution 2172 (XXI) it requested that the Secretary-General prepare proposals for ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science, and for initiating and strengthening marine education and training programmes,

Recalling further the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report (E/4487) pursuant to resolution 2172 (XXI),

Noting that the Bureau and Consultative Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO considered the proposed International Decade of Ocean Exploration a useful initiative for broadening and accelerating investigations of the oceans and for strengthening international co-operation,

Noting also the recommendation adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 2 August 1968, inviting the General Assembly to endorse the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research, taking into account such initiatives as the proposal for an

International Decade of Ocean Exploration and International programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation in co-operation with other specialized agencies,

Aware of the consideration given to the proposal in the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, arising from the important contribution which the Decade would make to scientific research and exploration of the sea-bed and deep ocean floor,

1. Welcomes and commends to Member States the concept of an International Decade of Ocean Exploration to be undertaken within the framework of a long-term programme of research and exploration under the general aegis of the United Nations;

2. Invites interested Member States to formulate proposals for national and international scientific programmes and agreed activities to be undertaken during the Decade with due regard to the interests of developing countries, to transmit these proposals to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and to begin such activities as soon as practicable;

3. Urges Member States to publish as soon as practicable the results of activities which they will have undertaken within the framework of the Decade and at the same time to communicate these results to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

4. Requests the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission:

(a) To further and co-ordinate, in co-operation with other interested agencies, an expanded, accelerated, long-term and sustained programme of world-wide exploration of the oceans and their resources of which the Decade will be an element, including international agency programmes, expanded international exchange of data from national programmes, and international efforts to strengthen the research capabilities of all interested nations;

(b) To report through appropriate channels to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly on the progress made in ocean activities undertaken pursuant to this resolution.