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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE
SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE
LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Dual distribution

United Kingdom: suggested explanatory
statement to accompany the adoption of
the comprehensive list of subjects and issues

Operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly Resolution 2750 C (XXV) instructed the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea Bed and the Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction to prepare inter alia a comprehensive list of subjects and issues relating to the law of the sea, referred to in operative paragraph 2 of the Resolution, in preparation for the conference on the law of the sea and also to prepare draft treaty articles on such subjects and issues.

2. Under the terms of the "Agreement Reached on Organization of Work" adopted by the Committee on 12 March 1971 the task of preparing the comprehensive list of subjects and issues relating to the law of the sea and of preparing draft treaty articles thereon was remitted to Sub-Committee II, it being understood that the Sub-Committee might decide to draft articles before completing the comprehensive list of subjects and issues.

3. Under operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly Resolution 2750 C (XXV) it will be for the General Assembly to review the reports of the Committee on the progress of its preparatory work with a view to determining inter alia the precise agenda of the conference on the law of the sea.

4. The list of subjects and issues relating to the law of the sea prepared by Sub-Committee II in pursuance of the above mandate will be provisional in the sense that until such time as the General Assembly definitively adopts the precise agenda of the conference it remains open to any member of the Committee or, in the General Assembly, to any member state of the United Nations to propose additional items for inclusion in the list or, as the case may be, in the eventual agenda of the conference and also

in the sense that the adoption of the list will not necessarily entail that any particular subject or issue in it will in fact form part of the agenda of the conference. It will also not imply that treaty articles will be drafted covering each and every item in the list, nor will it in any way prejudice the position of any delegation with regard to any item.

5. The adoption of the list will be without prejudice to the respective mandates of each of the three Sub-Committees as entrusted to it by the Committee and it is understood that Sub-Committee II will adopt a flexible attitude towards the organization of its discussion of the subjects and issues, forming part of the list, that fall within its competence, and towards the drafting of articles.