



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.138/SC.1/8
21 August 1969
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

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

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE USSR DURING THE DISCUSSION
OF THE REPORT OF THE INFORMAL DRAFTING GROUP (A/AC.138/SC.1/4)

Item 1

1. There is an area of the sea-bed and ocean floor which lies beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, a more precise boundary of which shall be established.

2. The sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction is not subject to national appropriation and no State may claim or exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part of the sea-bed; no one may acquire property rights over any part of the sea-bed by use, occupation or any other means.

Item 2

The activities of States on the sea-bed shall be carried out in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and the legal principles and norms which will hereafter be agreed upon for the exploration, use and exploitation of the sea-bed.

Item 3

The sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof beyond the limits of the maritime zone of coastal States, the boundaries of which are to be agreed upon in international negotiations on disarmament, shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes; accordingly all military activities shall be excluded, and all forms of military use shall be prohibited.

Item 4

1. The exploration and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States.

2. Subsequently, a special legal régime regulating the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor shall be worked out.

Item 5

Freedom of scientific research on the sea-bed and the ocean floor shall be assured and States shall promote international co-operation in the carrying out of such research.

Item 6

The activities of States in connexion with the sea-bed shall not infringe recognized freedoms of the high seas and shall not interfere with navigation, fishing, scientific research or the safeguarding of the living resources of the sea.

Item 7

Appropriate national and international measures shall be taken to ensure that activities carried out on the sea-bed do not cause pollution of the marine environment and other harmful effects, particularly radio-active contamination.

Item 8

States shall bear international responsibility for their national activities on the sea-bed, irrespective of whether those activities are carried out by governmental organs, non-governmental organizations or private persons.