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# UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

Economic and Technical Sub-Committee

### Draft Report

1. The Economic and Technical Sub-Committee held 9 meetings in New York from 9 to 23 March 1970 and 5 meetings in Geneva from 11 to 21 August 1970. The meetings were attended by the representatives of the forty-two member countries of the Committee. Also present were the observers of the following countries: Barbados, Burma, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Guyana, Jamaica, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR and Venezuela, and the representatives of the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and its IOC, WMO, IMCO and IAEA.
2. The Bureau of the Economic and Technical Sub-Committee was composed of the following members:  

Chairman:	Mr. Roger Denorme (Belgium)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J.S. Teja (India) during the Session in New York
	Mr. C.V. Ranganathan (India) during the Session in Geneva
Rapporteur:	Mr. Anton Prohaska (Austria)
3. An interim report (A/AC.138/SC.2/L.6) was adopted at the end of its thirty-fourth meeting held on 23 March 1970. The Sub-Committee adopted its final report at the end of its meeting (A/AC.138/SC.2/L. ).

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4. Following proposals made by the Chairman (A/AC.138/SC.2/L.2 and A/AC.138/SC.2/L.8), the Economic and Technical Sub-Committee considered the economic and technical requirements and rules for the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction in the context of the régime to be set up in accordance with the terms of reference as laid down in General Assembly resolution 2467 A (XXIII) and pursuant to the particular mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 2574 B (XXIV) (A/AC.138/SC.2/L.3 and A/AC.138/SC.2/L.7).
5. The Sub-Committee had the following documents at its disposal: The review prepared by the Secretariat on government measures pertaining to the development of mineral resources on the continental shelf (A/AC.138/21 and Corr.1); the Studies of the Secretary-General on International Machinery (A/AC.138/12, Add.1, Corr.1 and A/AC.138/23); the Report of the Secretary-General on Marine pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects which might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (A/7924); the relevant parts of the Report of the Sea-Bed Committee (A/7622) to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth Session. It also took into account the comments made during that session on this item (A/C.1/PV.1673-1783) and A/C.1/PV.1708-1710) and on the comments during the debates in the Main Committee (A/AC.138/SR.17-24 and SR.25- ).
6. In addition, the Sub-Committee had before it a paper of the Secretariat on the question of possible methods and criteria for the sharing by the international community of proceeds and other benefits derived from the exploitation of the resources of this area which it requested at its March session though some representatives expressed the most serious doubts about the timeliness and appropriateness of such a paper for the implementation by the Sub-Committee of its mandate.
7. On the opening of the August session of the Sub-Committee, at its thirty-fifth meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made a statement which, following a decision by the Sub-Committee, was reproduced in document A/AC.138/SC.2/L.9.
8. Under operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2574 B (XXIV), the Committee is requested, in particular, to formulate recommendations regarding the economic and technical requirements and the rules for exploitation of the resources of this area in the context of the régime to be set up. In response to this request,

it was suggested that it would be appropriate in a first phase to identify and examine systematically the problems and issues of an economic and technical nature regarding the exploration and exploitation of marine mineral resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

9. While the Sub-Committee recognized that something is to be learned from existing national rules and practices relating to resource exploration and exploitation in all countries, it recognized also that none of these existing systems is directly applicable to resource development in this environment under an appropriate régime internationally agreed upon.

10. The Sub-Committee further recognized that when considering economic and technical conditions and rules for activities of exploration and exploitation of the resources in this area, it would also have to study the alternative questions as to which economic and technical requirements and rules might need to be specified and in what detail in the convention establishing the régime, and which of them might require international machinery or might be left for determination by States. In this connexion, it was stressed by some representatives that consideration of such alternatives would not prejudice their future position with regard to international machinery or international institutional arrangements.

11. During the debate, several representatives indicated their views as to the economic and technical rules and requirements of exploitation, the nature and scope of the régime to be established, and the principles to be reflected in this régime, as well as to the international machinery which will be responsible for management of the area and its resources. Several topics were suggested with regard to the economic and technical conditions and rules for the exploitation of the resources of this area which might, inter alia, be usefully considered in the context of the international régime to be set up. A number of considerations were expressed on various approaches and possible forms of solution. They are listed in Annex I to this Report.

12. The Sub-Committee proposed for its future sessions, keeping in mind the concurrent studies of the main Committee and of the Legal Sub-Committee and taking into account the (two) reports of the Secretary-General on the international machinery, to study further systematically the alternatives and identify the most suitable solutions to the issues raised.

13. Various proposals emerged which might also be usefully considered during future sessions of the Economic and Technical Sub-Committee in accordance with its terms of reference. They are contained in working papers annexed to this report.

14. The Sub-Committee recommended that it be instructed to pursue its consideration of the topics relating to the economic and technical rules and requirements for the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the area with a view to formulating acceptable draft provisions for the convention establishing an international régime in the area.

15. Responding to the General Assembly's request in operative paragraph 6 of its resolution 2754 B (XXIV), the Sub-Committee adopted the following recommendations: