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

Economic and Technical Sub-Committee

CORRIGENDUM

Draft Report

Delete paragraph 12 and following paragraphs in Document A/AC.138/SC.2/L.10.

Replace by the following paragraphs:

12. In addition, 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. Some of them are contained in working papers annexed to this report.

13. The points raised during discussions, many of which are referred to in annexes to this report, as to economic and technical conditions and rules for exploitation of the resources of this area in the context of the régime to be set up indicate that the subject in its totality is complex and that many of its aspects are interrelated. Many representatives felt the need for more time to enable the considerable amount of material now available to the Sub-Committee to be examined by their governments.

14. The need to provide training in sea-bed operations for nationals in developing countries as well as the importance of ensuring the widespread dissemination and availability to all States of the results of scientific research and exploration of the sea-bed and ocean floor was stressed by the Sub-Committee. The need, eventually, for agreed definitions of the economic and technical terminology used was also noted.

The Sub-Committee was conscious of its duty under operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2574 B (XXIV) to make an effective contribution to the development of an efficient and equitable international régime, such international machinery as may be decided to be necessary. It refrained, however, from making selective recommendations until a further study of the subject in its totality, i.e. the international régime and the international machinery, was undertaken so that it could present its recommendations as a balanced and coherent whole.

15. Since the priority task of the Geneva Session was the preparation of an agreed declaration of principles and the carrying out of further discussions on international machinery, the Sub-Committee could not meet as often as it had wished. The Sub-Committee feels that through the documents before the Sub-Committee on this session and the wide-ranging discussions held, it was possible to obtain a further clarification of some of the economic and technical conditions and rules for the exploitation of the resources of the sea bed and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction in the context of the régime to be set up.

16. The Sub-Committee reports that it has made an encouraging start to its task and that progress made in the exchange of views has established the value and importance of its work.

17. It was the unanimous recommendation of the Sub-Committee that it be instructed at its future session in accordance with its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolutions 2467 A (XXIII) and 2574 B (XXIV), keeping in mind the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly as well as the concurrent studies of the Main Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee, and taking into account the reports of the Secretary-General on International Machinery, the preliminary note on Possible Methods and Criteria for the Sharing by the International Community of Proceeds and other Benefits derived from the exploitation of the resources of the area, as well as comments thereon to study further and systematically the issues raised in order to identify the most suitable solutions. It was felt that this study should be made with a view to incorporating the most suitable alternative solutions in a draft resolution to be recommended by the Committee to the General Assembly. Such a draft resolution might, inter alia, request the Committee to pursue its consideration with a view to formulating acceptable draft provisions for the agreement establishing an international régime in the area.