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

SUB-COMMITTEE III

Working Paper submitted by the People's Republic of  
Bulgaria, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic  
and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Basic principles concerning international co-operation  
in marine scientific research

It could be stated in the preamble that:

- Further progress in marine scientific research for peaceful purposes is in the common interest of all mankind;
- Knowledge of all aspects of the natural processes and phenomena occurring in the ocean, including the sea-bed and the ocean floor, is of great significance;
- Marine scientific research will promote the practical utilization of marine areas and resources and will facilitate action to deal with natural disasters;
- Marine scientific research should be conducted for the benefit of all countries irrespective of their degree of economic and technological development;
- Assistance to marine scientific research would help to increase the well-being of the peoples of the world, particularly in the developing countries;
- A comprehensive knowledge of the oceans can only be acquired by uniting the scientific capacities and combining the efforts of States;
- It is essential to extend international co-operation in marine scientific research and to establish the most favourable conditions for conducting such research.

The basic principles might be formulated as:

.. Inter-State co-operation in the further development of marine scientific research and the combined efforts of scientists in studying the nature and interrelationships of oceanic phenomena and processes are an essential condition for the efficient and rational exploitation of the wealth and resources of the seas and the oceans in the interests of all countries.

2. International co-operation in conducting marine scientific research shall serve peaceful purposes and help to increase the well-being of the peoples of all countries.

3. Marine scientific research shall be conducted in conformity with the universally-recognized principles and standards of international law, including the United Nations Charter.

The high seas are open to the unhampered pursuit of scientific research work by all States on a basis of equality, without discrimination of any kind.

4. States shall co-operate with one another in providing favourable conditions for the conduct of marine scientific research and in the removal of obstacles to such research. In particular, in the interests of international co-operation, States shall, within the framework of their national laws and regulations, facilitate the entry into their ports of ships conducting marine scientific research by simplifying the relevant procedure.

5. States shall co-operate in adopting measures designed to extend the research opportunities of developing and land-locked countries, including the participation of the nationals of such countries in scientific research work, the provision of scientific training and the exchange of experience in the conduct of scientific research work.

6. All States may take part in international marine scientific research programmes and will encourage the participation of their own scientists in the work envisaged under those programmes.

7. States and international organizations shall co-operate under the auspices of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in conducting marine scientific research in accordance with the long-term and expanded programme of oceanic exploration and research.

8. States shall endeavour in every way to stimulate the mutual exchange of scientific data, and shall make such data available to the developing countries as part of the scientific and technical assistance they provide to those countries.

9. States shall adopt and encourage measures to ensure the publication and wide dissemination of the results of marine scientific research, inter alia, through the system of world and regional data centres.

10. All States shall co-operate with each other in preventing hindrances to the normal functioning and safe preservation of stationary and mobile, manned and unmanned, equipment and installations on the high seas carrying scientific apparatus and intended for making scientific measurements and experiments.

11. Marine scientific research shall be carried out without causing damage to the environment which might entail the disturbance of ecological balances therein.
12. Marine scientific research shall be conducted without causing danger to navigation or unwarranted interference with fishing. Where necessary, appropriate notifications of when and where experiments are to be conducted shall be provided in good time.
13. States shall bear international responsibility for national activities connected with marine scientific research, whether such activities are conducted by government bodies or by individuals or bodies corporate under their jurisdiction.
14. No such activity shall constitute legal grounds for any claims to any part of the seas or oceans or their resources.
15. These principles shall extend equally to scientific research carried out on the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of the continental shelf.