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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

Draft Resolution on Preliminary Measures  
to prevent and control Marine Pollution

submitted by Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Iceland,  
Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic  
and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The General Assembly:

Affirming that the marine environment and all the living organisms which it supports are of vital importance to humanity;

Recognizing the intensified use of the marine areas and the increasing importance of these areas to mankind;

Mindful of the grave and increasing threat of pollution to the marine environment endangering marine life, the ecology of the oceans and humanity as a whole;

Considering that modern scientific and technological research and achievements make it feasible to resolve the problems of maintaining and improving the level of purity of the marine environment;

Bearing in mind the importance of comprehensive and continuing research on the processes of the pollution of the marine environment and methods of preventing it;

Having regard to the valuable work and resolutions made by United Nations organs, conferences, the specialized agencies as well as other fora.

Noting that the problem of preventing marine pollution can be effectively solved only by means of international co-operation on a world wide basis.

Recognizing further that the problem of the prevention and control of marine pollution can only be solved through the concerted action of States at the international, regional as well as the national level;

1. Calls upon States pending the elaboration and implementation of international instruments to take appropriate preliminary steps to prevent and control to the extent possible, marine pollution from whatever source it may arise within their jurisdiction, including especially the indiscriminate discharge into the ocean of toxic or hazardous substances or materials from the various means of transportation and from rivers, lakes or estuaries leading into the sea;
2. Appeals to States to take adequate steps to prevent and control to the extent possible, dangers of marine pollution stemming from the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources on or in their continental shelves;
3. Welcomes the elaboration by States of appropriate rules and regulations for the protection of the marine environment;
4. Appeals to States to co-operate in establishing and strengthening, within the context of the appropriate international bodies or on a basis of regional co-operation, effective regulatory and monitoring systems in order to prevent and control marine pollution;
5. Emphasizes that the steps to be taken in conformity with the present resolution shall in no manner prejudice the elaboration and implementation of general or regional international instruments or the development of international institutions for the prevention and control of marine pollution.