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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 II

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-THIRD MEETING^{*/}

held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 3 July 1973, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. CALINDO POHL

El Salvador

Rapporteur:

Mr. ABDEL-HAMID

Egypt

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N.B. Participants wishing to submit corrections to this provisional summary record are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Official Records Editing Section, Room E.4121, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within three working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

^{*/} This provisional summary record, together with the corrections to be issued in consolidated form after the session, will constitute the final record of the meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN declared open the sixty-third meeting of Sub-Committee II. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction had reached the final stage of its work, for which very precise objectives had been set, and it therefore had until 24 August to find an equitable solution to the problems concerning the marine environment and to elaborate an international scheme for the rational utilization and fair distribution of marine resources. Moreover, owing to the advances made in the exploitation of those resources and in view of recent events, some of which were of a political nature, matters relating to the law of the sea had now become urgent and the convening of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea could no longer be delayed. The Sub-Committee should therefore try to accelerate its work.

In order to simplify the Sub-Committee's task, it would be useful to apply the provisions concerning the organization of work which had been worked out in New York in March and April 1973. Those provisions had resulted from lengthy and difficult discussions, and it was by applying them now that their efficacy could be judged. Certainly, the procedure was flexible enough to allow the various suggestions that had been made on the subject - which were undeniably valid - to be taken into consideration. For accelerating the work, however, it would be better to adhere to the procedural decisions already taken, although that would not prevent the possibility of subsequently modifying the organization of work, depending on the progress made, if the proposed procedure was found unsatisfactory. Personally, however, he thought it would be better to weigh the results achieved before adopting decisions the effect of which would be to modify both the programme and the procedure. Furthermore, it was important to remember that what mattered was the political will to succeed, without which it would be impossible to make headway whatever rules of procedure were adopted. He therefore suggested that the Working Group should tackle its job immediately and meet as soon as the present meeting ended.

With regard to the Sub-Committee's work programme, it should be stressed that some of the meetings would have to be devoted to the study and adoption of the Sub-Committee's report. Moreover, when the Officers came to examine the broad lines of that report, the Sub-Committee would have to be kept informed of their opinion.

After appealing to the spirit of collaboration of the members of the Sub-Committee, he said that, if there were no objections, he would consider his suggestions accepted.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.