



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.138/SC.I/L.11
30 March 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

SUB-COMMITTEE I

Letter dated 29 March 1972 from the Chairman of
Sub-Committee I, Mr. P.B. Engo, to the Chairman
of the Committee, Ambassador H.S. Amerasinghe

I have pleasure in providing the following report on the work of
Sub-Committee I at this session.

The Sub-Committee held 16 meetings between 29 February and 29 March 1972. At its first meeting, on 29 February, it elected me as Chairman, in succession to Dr. E.E. Seaton of Tanzania, and Mr. H.C. Mott of Australia as Rapporteur, in succession to Mr. A. Prohaska of Austria. The three Vice-Chairmen, Mr. S.M. Thompson-Flores of Brazil, Mr. G. Fekete of Hungary, and Mr. C.V. Ranganathan of India, continued to serve in their posts.

The Sub-Committee approved as its programme of work a proposal on this subject submitted by Australia and Jamaica at its last session in Geneva, with amendments suggested by several delegations at this session. The programme is as follows:

1. Status, scope and basic provisions of the régime based on the Declaration of Principles, General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV).
2. Status, scope, functions and powers of the international machinery in relation to:
 - (a) organs of the international machinery, including composition, procedures and dispute settlement,
 - (b) rules and practices relating to activities for the exploration, exploitation and management of the resources of the area, as well as those relating to the preservation of the marine environment and scientific research, including technical assistance to developing countries,
 - (c) the equitable sharing in the benefits to be derived from the area, bearing in mind the special interests and needs of developing countries, whether coastal or land-locked,

- (d) the economic considerations and implications relating to the exploitation of the resources of the area, including their processing and marketing,
- (e) the particular needs and problems of land-locked countries,
- (f) relationship of the international machinery to the United Nations system.

The Sub-Committee began its substantive work at this session with a general discussion of item 1 on its programme of work, relating to the status, scope and functions of the régime. Forty-two delegations made statements, after which I summarized the course of the discussion. This summary was circulated at the request of the Sub-Committee in document A/AC.138/SC.I/L.10.

As a result of consultations with members of the Sub-Committee, it was agreed to set up a Working Group under item 1 of the programme of work, with the task of drawing up in the first instance a working paper showing areas of agreement and disagreement. Thereafter, the Working Group would attempt to negotiate points of substance on which no agreement existed.

The Working Group, which has 33 members and is open-ended, held two meetings during this session. At its first meeting, it elected Mr. C.W. Pinto of Ceylon as its Chairman. It is expected to get down to serious business as soon as the summer session of the Committee opens, to prepare a first report for consideration of the Sub-Committee. The first meeting is being arranged for 11 a.m. on 17 July 1972, immediately following the formal opening in Geneva.

At the conclusion of the discussion of item 1, the Sub-Committee took up item 2 on its programme of work relating to the status, scope, powers and functions of the international machinery. Forty-two delegations spoke in this discussion, which will be continued at the first four meetings of the Sub-Committee in Geneva. After that discussion, and on the basis of consultations with members of the Sub-Committee, I would hope, by agreement in the Sub-Committee, to establish an appropriate Working Group or Groups to carry forward the consideration of item 2 in an efficient and orderly manner.

It is my view that Sub-Committee I has made substantial and encouraging progress at this session. Given the prevailing spirit of co-operation and compromise, we may look forward with confidence to further such progress at our summer session, at the end of which a report will be submitted covering the activity of the Sub-Committee at both of its sessions in 1972.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Paul Bamela ENGO
Chairman
Sub-Committee I