

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.138/SC.I/L.13
20 July 1972

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

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

SUB-COMMITTEE I

Statement made by Mr. Manuel Pérez Guerrero, Secretary-General of
the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),
at the forty-eighth meeting of Sub-Committee I of the Committee
on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor beyond
the limits of national jurisdiction, held at
the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 19 July 1972

Mr. Chairman,

I had not intended to speak, but in response to your kind invitation I shall make a few brief remarks. My presence at the opening of this meeting should serve to attest the close and active co-operation which - as my colleague Mr. Philippe de Seynes has just emphasized - exists between the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UNCTAD secretariat, and the importance we attach to the subject dealt with by this Sub-committee. We have contributed to the documentation before you and we shall continue to participate in the search for a solution to the problem of the sea-bed, which will require protracted efforts. It has already been widely recognized that the abundant resources existing on the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction must be used for the benefit of all mankind and, in particular, of the developing countries irrespective of their geographical situation. It is therefore inconceivable that the exploitation of those resources should be permitted to undermine international trade in exported mineral products, which unfortunately, even under existing conditions, is generally on a basis unfavourable to the developing countries. All necessary steps must be taken to prevent that from happening. I am confident that, through the necessary rationalization of the

exploitation of the sea-bed as a valuable addition to existing mineral production, damage of the kind I have mentioned will be avoided and it will be possible to ensure that all countries receive a fair benefit. We have raised this matter in several organs of UNCTAD and most recently at the third session of the Conference at Santiago.*/ I wish you every success in your deliberations at Geneva.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

*/ (See resolution 52 (III))