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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 I

Note by the Chairman

1. According to the terms of reference for the Sub-Committee it will have to prepare draft treaty articles embodying the international régime - including an international machinery - for the area and the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, taking into account the equitable sharing by all States in the benefits to be derived therefrom. It will in this context have to bear in mind the special interests and needs of developing countries, whether coastal or land-locked, on the basis of the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil thereof beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction; as well as the economic implications resulting from the exploitation of the resources of the area (resolution 2750 A), as well as the particular needs and problems of land-locked countries (resolution 2750 B).
2. To facilitate the discharge of its task, the Sub-Committee will have at its disposition the reports the Secretary-General has prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2750 A and 2750 B. In addition, the Secretary-General will present a report on "Possible methods and criteria for the sharing by the international community of proceeds from the exploitation of the resources of the area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction" which has been prepared in accordance with the request made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

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3. The Sub-Committee might also wish to take into account in its deliberations the results of the work done by the former Economic and Technical Sub-Committee of the Sea-Bed Committee as well as the relevant documentation already existing.

4. A variety of procedures may be adopted in order to facilitate the carrying out of the mandate of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee may want to start its work by way of a general exchange of views on the subjects falling within its terms of reference.

In view of the fact that there are several subjects within the Sub-Committee's terms of reference which need to be considered and clarified, it may be envisaged that, at the appropriate time, Working Groups could be set up to deal with these subjects.