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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

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: proposal

PREAMBLE TO A TREATY ON THE USE OF THE SEA-BED FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES

The States Parties to this Treaty,

Attaching great importance to the rational and orderly use of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof beyond the limits of the continental shelf exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of the peoples of all countries,

Considering that co-operation in this field between States, on the basis of a treaty, would contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the development of international co-operation, and would also promote the utilization of the resources of the sea-bed in the interests of economic progress, including the interests of the economies of the peoples of the developing countries,

Noting the great importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, as an important step towards the exclusion of the sea-bed and the ocean floor from the arms race,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV), which provides inter alia that an international régime applying to the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof shall be established by "an international treaty of a universal character, generally agreed upon",

Convinced that the conclusion of a treaty on the use of the sea-bed for peaceful purposes will contribute to the realization of the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter and to the strengthening of the principles of international law governing the freedom of the high seas, including the freedom of research,

Have agreed as follows: