

(b) The protection and conservation of the natural resources of the area and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.

12. In their activities in the area, including those relating to its resources, States shall pay due regard to the rights and legitimate interests of coastal States in the region of such activities, as well as of all other States, which may be affected by such activities. Consultations shall be maintained with the coastal States concerned with respect to activities relating to the exploration of the area and the exploitation of its resources with a view to avoiding infringement of such rights and interests.

13. Nothing herein shall affect:

(a) The legal status of the waters superjacent to the area or that of the air space above those waters;

(b) The rights of coastal States with respect to measures to prevent, mitigate or eliminate grave and imminent danger to their coastline or related interests from pollution or threat thereof or from other hazardous occurrences resulting from or caused by any activities in the area, subject to the international régime to be established.

14. Every State shall have the responsibility to ensure that activities in the area, including those relating to its resources, whether undertaken by governmental agencies, or non-governmental entities or persons under its jurisdiction, or acting on its behalf, shall be carried out in conformity with the international régime to be established. The same responsibility applies to international organizations and their members for activities undertaken by such organizations or on their behalf. Damage caused by such activities shall entail liability.

15. The parties to any dispute relating to activities in the area and its resources shall resolve such dispute by the measures mentioned in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations and such procedures for settling disputes as may be agreed upon in the international régime to be established.

*1933rd plenary meeting,
17 December 1970.*

2750 (XXV). Reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction and use of their resources in the interests of mankind, and convening of a conference on the law of the sea

A

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the area of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and its resources are the common heritage of mankind,

Convinced that the exploration of the area and the exploitation of its resources should be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries,

Reaffirming that the development of the area and its resources shall be undertaken in such a manner as to foster the healthy development of the world economy and balanced growth of international trade, and to

minimize any adverse economic effects caused by the fluctuation of prices of raw materials resulting from such activities,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to co-operate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, specialized agencies and other competent organizations of the United Nations system in order to:

(a) Identify the problems arising from the production of certain minerals from the area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and examine the impact they will have on the economic well-being of the developing countries, in particular on prices of mineral exports on the world market;

(b) Study these problems in the light of the scale of possible exploitation of the sea-bed, taking into account the world demand for raw materials and the evolution of costs and prices;

(c) Propose effective solutions for dealing with these problems;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his report thereon to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction for consideration during one of its sessions in 1971 and for making its recommendations, as appropriate, to foster the healthy development of the world economy and balanced growth of international trade and to minimize any adverse economic effects caused by the fluctuation of prices of raw materials resulting from such activities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, specialized agencies and other competent organizations of the United Nations system, to keep this matter under constant review so as to submit supplementary information annually or whenever it is necessary and recommend additional measures in the light of economic, scientific and technological developments;

4. *Calls upon* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

*1933rd plenary meeting,
17 December 1970.*

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1028 (XI) of 20 February 1957 and 1105 (XI) of 21 February 1957 concerning the problems of land-locked countries,

Bearing in mind the replies to the inquiries made by the Secretary-General⁸⁹ in accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 2574 A (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, which indicate wide support for the idea of convening a conference relating to the law of the sea, at which the interests and needs of all States, whether land-locked or coastal, could be reconciled,

Noting that many of the present land-locked States Members of the United Nations did not participate in the previous United Nations conferences on the law of the sea,

Reaffirming that the area of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and their subsoil, lying beyond the limits of national jurisdiction together with the resources thereof are the common heritage of mankind,

⁸⁹ See A/7925 and Add.1-3.

Convinced that the exploration of the area and the exploitation of its resources must be carried out for the benefit of all mankind, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries, including the particular needs and problems of those which are land-locked,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent bodies, an up-to-date study of the matters referred to in the memorandum dated 14 January 1958, prepared by the Secretariat, on the question of free access to the sea of land-locked countries⁴⁰ and to supplement that document, in the light of the events which have occurred in the meantime, with a report on the special problems of land-locked countries relating to the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the seabed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the above-mentioned study to the enlarged Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction⁴¹ for consideration at one of its sessions in 1971, so that appropriate measures may be evolved within the general framework of the law of the sea, to resolve the problems of land-locked countries;

3. *Requests* the Committee to report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

1933rd plenary meeting,
17 December 1970.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 798 (VIII) of 7 December 1953, 1105 (XI) of 21 February 1957 and 2574 A (XXIV) of 15 December 1969,

Recalling further its resolutions 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, 2467 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968 and 2574 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969,

Taking into account the results of the consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General⁴² in accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 2574 A (XXIV), which indicate widespread support for the holding of a comprehensive conference on the law of the sea,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Noting that the political and economic realities, scientific development and rapid technological advances of the last decade have accentuated the need for early and progressive development of the law of the sea, in a framework of close international co-operation,

Having regard to the fact that many of the present States Members of the United Nations did not take part in the previous United Nations conferences on the law of the sea,

Convinced that the elaboration of an equitable international régime for the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national

jurisdiction would facilitate agreement on the questions to be examined at such a conference,

Affirming that such agreements on those questions should seek to accommodate the interests and needs of all States, whether land-locked or coastal, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries, whether land-locked or coastal,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,⁴³

Convinced that a new conference on the law of the sea would have to be carefully prepared to ensure its success and that the preparatory work ought to start as soon as possible after the conclusion of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, drawing on the experience already accumulated in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction and using fully the opportunity provided by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to be held in 1972, to further its work,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made so far towards the elaboration of the international régime for the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction through the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil Thereof, beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 1970;⁴⁴

2. *Decides* to convene in 1973, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 below, a conference on the law of the sea which would deal with the establishment of an equitable 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, a precise definition of the area, and a broad range of related issues including those concerning the régimes of the high seas, the continental shelf, the territorial sea (including the question of its breadth and the question of international straits) and contiguous zone, fishing and conservation of the living resources of the high seas (including the question of the preferential rights of coastal States), the preservation of the marine environment (including, *inter alia*, the prevention of pollution) and scientific research;

3. *Decides further* to review, at its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions, the reports of the Committee referred to in paragraph 6 below on the progress of its preparatory work with a view to determining the precise agenda of the conference on the law of the sea, its definitive date, location and duration, and related arrangements; if the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, determines the progress of the preparatory work of the Committee to be insufficient, it may decide to postpone the conference;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction set forth in General Assembly resolution 2467 A (XXIII) as supplemented by the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to enlarge the Committee by forty-four members, appointed by the Chairman of the First Committee in consultation with regional groups and taking

⁴⁰ United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, *Official Records*, vol. I: *Preparatory Documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.V.4, vol. I), document A/CONF.13/29 and Add.1.

⁴¹ See resolution 2750 C (XXV), para. 5, below.

⁴² See A/7925 and Add.1-3.

⁴³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/8021)*.

⁴⁴ Resolution 2749 (XXV).

into account equitable geographical representation thereon;

6. *Instructs* the enlarged Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction to hold two sessions in Geneva, in March and in July-August 1971, in order to prepare for the conference on the law of the sea 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, bearing 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, and a comprehensive list of subjects and issues relating to the law of the sea referred to in paragraph 2 above, which should be dealt with by the conference, and draft articles on such subjects and issues;

7. *Authorizes* the Committee to establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the efficient performance of its functions, bearing in mind the scientific, economic, legal and technical aspects of the issues involved;

8. *Requests* the Committee to prepare, as appropriate, reports to the General Assembly on the progress of its work;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate those reports to Member States and to observers to the United Nations for their comments and observations;

10. *Decides* to invite other Member States which are not appointed to the Committee to participate as observers and to be heard on specific points;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the Committee all the assistance it may require in legal, economic, technical and scientific matters, including the provision of relevant records of the General Assembly and specialized agencies for the efficient performance of its functions;

12. *Decides* that the enlarged Committee, as well as its subsidiary organs, shall have summary records of its proceedings;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, the World Health Organiza-

tion, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental bodies and specialized agencies concerned to co-operate fully with the enlarged Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction in the implementation of the present resolution, in particular by preparing such scientific and technical documentation as the Committee may request.

1933rd plenary meeting,
17 December 1970.

* * *

The Chairman of the First Committee subsequently informed the Secretary-General⁴⁵ that, in pursuance of paragraph 5 of resolution C above, he had appointed forty-three of the forty-four additional members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, namely: AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, BOLIVIA, the BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, COLOMBIA, the CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF), CYPRUS, DENMARK, ECUADOR, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HUNGARY, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, the IVORY COAST, JAMAICA, LEBANON, MALI, MAURITIUS, MOROCCO, NEPAL, the NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, PANAMA, the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, the PHILIPPINES, SENEGAL, SINGAPORE, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TUNISIA, TURKEY, the UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA and YEMEN.

As a result of the above appointments, the Committee is composed of the following Member States: AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, CAMEROON, CANADA, CEYLON, CHILE, COLOMBIA, CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF), CYPRUS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GABON, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, ITALY, IVORY COAST, JAMAICA, JAPAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, ROMANIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SINGAPORE, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SUDAN, SWEDEN, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, YEMEN and YUGOSLAVIA.

⁴⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 25, document A/8273.*