

CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION BY DUMPING OF WASTES
AND OTHER MATTER – LONDON, 1972

First meeting of Contracting Parties – London, 17-19 December 1975

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The United Kingdom Government propose that this Meeting should follow the arrangements set out in this Note for its organisation and manner of work. Since time is limited, the arrangements proposed attempt to provide for speedy and informal methods of work. On matters not referred to in this Note, the general practice of international conferences will be followed, unless the Contracting Parties decide otherwise.

Rules of Procedure for this Meeting

1. For the purposes of this Note "Contracting Party" means any state which has become a contracting party to the Convention by notifying a depositary Government of its ratification or accession on or before 17 December 1975.
2. "Secretary-General" means the person designated as such by the Government of the United Kingdom, as the convening Government.
3. Each Contracting Party shall transmit to the Secretary-General the credentials of its representative and alternates, if any, not later than the opening day of this Meeting.
4. The Contracting Parties shall elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen who shall hold office until the first consultative meeting of Contracting Parties.

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5. This Meeting should as a general rule endeavour to act by consensus. However, if it becomes necessary in order to resolve disputed questions to proceed to a vote then decisions of this Meeting on matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the representatives of Contracting Parties present and voting. Decisions on matters concerning the procedure of this Meeting shall be taken by a majority vote of the representatives of Contracting Parties present and voting. Representatives of a majority of Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum.

6. Observers from States not Contracting Parties and from the inter-governmental organisations invited to attend this Meeting may participate without vote in the deliberations of this Meeting.

7. English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the working languages of this Meeting.