

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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RECORD OF THE MEETING - 18th DECEMBER 1975

DESIGNATION OF A COMPETENT ORGANISATION TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
SECRETARIAT DUTIES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XIV(2) OF THE CONVENTION
(CONTINUED)

1. An informal Working Group was appointed to amend the UK/Mexican resolution LDC (5) to reflect the points which had been raised on the previous day. The Meeting agreed to the participation in the Working Group of the following delegations: Canada, Kenya, Norway, Phillipines, Spain, UK, USA, and the USSR.
2. The resolution as amended, LDC (7) was presented to the meeting by the chairman of the Working Group (Mr R McManus). The Kenyan delegate announced that his Government was willing to support the designation of IMCO and welcomed the reference to the need for co-operation with UNCTAD. The Portuguese observer, supported by the Norwegian delegation urged that the resolution should be amended to invite IMCO to co-operate closely with the Oslo Commission and with any other existing and possible future Commissions or Conventions relating to dumping. At the Chairman's suggestion, it was agreed that this should be part of the Conference Record. A number of drafting amendments were agreed by the Meeting and the Resolution as amended (LDC(7) Rev 1) designating the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation as the competent Organization under Article XIV(2) of the Convention was approved by the Meeting.

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3. The Secretary General of IMCO thanked the Meeting warmly for the confidence placed in the Organization and promised that IMCO would use its best endeavours in executing the wishes of the Contracting Parties.

4. The observer from UNEP welcomed the designation of IMCO as the Organisation responsible for the Secretariat duties in relation to the Convention. He referred to the great interest of UNEP in the activities of the Convention and pledged the full and continuing co-operation of UNEP with IMCO and the Contracting Parties.

5. The observer for GESAMP referred to the document "Scientific Criteria for the Selection of Sites for Dumping of Wastes into the Sea" (Appendix 1 of LDC(3)). He explained that IMCO provided secretariat services for GESAMP, and added that it was the unanimous view of the sponsoring agencies of GESAMP that the Group should offer its assistance to the work of the Convention by undertaking scientific work referred to it by Contracting Parties or by the Organisation under Article XIV(1)(b). The observer from the Paris Interim Commission stated that his organisation was also anxious and willing to assist the development of the Convention in any suitable way. He added that GESAMP had already made a useful contribution to the work under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land based sources. The Chairman welcomed the willingness of international organisations, as expressed on several occasions, to assist the work of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

6. The observer from Portugal said that his Government was hoping to ratify the Convention early in the New Year. Observers from the Netherlands and Japan said that their governments were actively considering the question of ratifying the Convention.

FURTHER WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION: FIRST CONSULTATIVE MEETING
OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. The Chairman drew attention to the paper LDC (3), prepared by the interim Secretariat, as an aid to the formulation of guidance to the designated Organisation in relation to the date and content of the first Consultative Meeting. He suggested that discussion might be based on LDC (3) and, in particular, consider

- (i) the timing of the first consultative meeting;
- (ii) guidance for the content of the first agenda;
- (iii) general guidance for the future work of the Convention.

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8. In discussion the Canadian Delegation, supported by several delegates and observers, suggested that the first consultative meeting should take place as soon as possible, preferably before the first anniversary of the coming into force of the Convention (i.e. before 30 August 1976). The USSR delegation supported by the Kenyan delegation pointed out however that the timing of the first meeting would be constrained by the need to permit consideration of papers circulated, and the undesirability of the meeting co-inciding with either the UN Law of the Sea Conference or the UN General Assembly. There was general agreement that if possible the meeting should take place before the end of September 1976.

9. The Norwegian delegation, supported by several delegates and observers, suggested that in preparing papers for the first consultative meeting, the Secretary-General of IMCO would find it helpful to receive the advice of informal expert groups on scientific and technical matters, and on administrative, procedural and legal matters. This would help to ensure that discussions at the first meeting would be as well-informed and fruitful as possible. The USA delegation suggested as an alternative that the Secretary-General be requested to seek informally, as soon as possible, the views of all interested parties on the agenda for the first meeting, and should circulate 3 months in advance these views and comments together with final versions of the documents to all those invited to attend.

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10. On the subject matter of the agenda the proposals contained in the interim Secretariat's paper LDC(3) found general acceptance. In addition, requests were made that discussions take place on co-operation between this Convention and the Regional Conventions or Organisations, on consideration of the application of the Convention to incineration at sea, on the dumping of munitions and radio-active wastes and on the need to encourage technical assistance. It was agreed that consideration of rules of procedure and the nature of reports required under Article VI of the Consultation were of first priority.

11. In reply, the Secretary General of IMCO assured the Meeting that the Organization was ready to start work immediately. The logistic problems to which delegates and observers had already referred would be important in determining the timing of the first meeting, but he would do everything possible to ensure that it took place at the earliest practicable date. IMCO was confident that it could perform all the duties laid down but it welcomed expert advice, in whatever form that advice was presented. He thanked the delegates and observers for their suggestions for the agenda of the first consultative meeting, and said that this would be helpful in establishing future priorities. He re-iterated in conclusion that all parts of the Organization would be available to help to meet the requirements of the Convention.

12. The Meeting agreed that the main conclusions of the discussion should appear in the Record in the following form.

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13. The Meeting having noted the contents of the paper presented by the interim Secretariat (LDC (3)), and the points made during the discussion of Item 8 of the Agenda (LDC (1) Rev 1) - Further Work under the Convention: First Consultative Meeting of the Contracting Parties - as recorded above:

(1) Agreed that the first consultative meeting under the Convention should be held in September 1976 or earlier if this proves practicable;

(2) Instructed the Secretary-General of IMCO to circulate as early as possible in 1976 to Contracting Parties, Signatory States and any other State which has specifically expressed an interest and to appropriate international organisations, his proposals for the Agenda and precise timing of the first consultative meeting and for the documents that should be prepared for that meeting.

(3) Invited Contracting Parties, Signatory States or any other State which has specifically expressed an interest or interested international organisations to comment on the Secretary-General's proposals and to convey to him any advice that they may wish on scientific or procedural matters relevant to the preparation of the first consultative meeting.

(4) Instructed the Secretary-General to ensure that all Contracting Parties, Signatory States and any other State which has specifically expressed an interest and interested international organisations are informed of any such comments and advice and to circulate at least 3 months in advance of the date proposed for the meeting a revised Agenda and appropriate documents.

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CREDENTIALS

14. The credentials of the following delegates were transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure (LDC (2) Rev 1) adopted by the meeting: Afghanistan, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Iceland, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Phillipines, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Zaire.

VOTE OF THANKS

15. The United States delegation offered the thanks of the delegates and observers to the Conference to the Government of the United Kingdom for arranging the Meeting, congratulated the Chairman on his skillful handling of the Meeting, and the Secretary-General and his Secretariat for their efficiency in servicing the Meeting. In reply the Chairman thanked delegates and observers for their helpfulness and their co-operation in bringing about a very satisfactory conclusion.