



IMCO

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE POLLUTION, 1973

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO MARINE POLLUTION

Further to the information contained in MP/CONF/INF.8, attached hereto are copies of the following Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly to which reference is made in Resolution A.176(VI) of the IMCO Assembly:

Resolution 2467 (XXIII) - Examination of the question of the 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 the use of their resources in the interests of mankind (adopted on 21 December 1968).

Resolution 2414 (XXIII) - International co-operation in problems related to the oceans (adopted on 17 December 1968).

Resolution 2398 (XXIII) - The problems of human environment (adopted on 3 December 1968).

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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A/RES/2467 (XXIII)
14 January 1969

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 26

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[On the report of the First Committee (A/7477)]

2467 (XXIII). Examination of the question of the 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 the use of their resources in the interests of mankind

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling the item entitled "Examination of the question of the 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 the use of their resources in the interests of mankind",

Having in mind its resolution 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967 concerned with the problems arising in the area to which the title of the item refers,

Reaffirming the objectives set forth in that resolution,

Taking note with appreciation of the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,^{1/} keeping in mind the views expressed in the course of its work and drawing upon its experience,

Recognizing that it is in the interest of mankind as a whole to favour the exploration and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, for peaceful purposes,

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 26, document A/7230.

Considering that it is important to promote international co-operation for the exploration and exploitation of the resources of this area,

Convinced that such exploitation should be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries,

Considering that it is essential to provide, within the United Nations system, a focal point for the elaboration of desirable measures of international co-operation, taking into account alternative actual and potential uses of this area, and for the co-ordination of the activities of international organizations in this regard,

1. Establishes a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, composed of forty-two States;

2. Instructs the Committee:

(a) To study the elaboration of the legal principles and norms which would promote international co-operation in the exploration and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to ensure the exploitation of their resources for the benefit of mankind, and the economic and other requirements which such a régime should satisfy in order to meet the interests of humanity as a whole;

(b) To study the ways and means of promoting the exploitation and use of the resources of this area, and of international co-operation to that end, taking into account the foreseeable development of technology and the economic implications of such exploitation and bearing in mind the fact that such exploitation should benefit mankind as a whole;

(c) To review the studies carried out in the field of exploration and research in this area and aimed at intensifying international co-operation and stimulating the exchange and the widest possible dissemination of scientific knowledge on the subject;

(d) To examine proposed measures of co-operation to be adopted by the international community in order to prevent the marine pollution which may result from the exploration and exploitation of the resources of this area;

3. Also calls upon the Committee to study further, within the context of the title of the item, and taking into account the studies and international negotiations being undertaken in the field of disarmament, the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor without prejudice to the limits which may be agreed upon in this respect;

4. Requests the Committee:

(a) To work in close co-operation with the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the intergovernmental bodies dealing with the problems referred to in the present resolution, so as to avoid any duplication or overlapping of activities;

(b) To make recommendations to the General Assembly on the questions mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

(c) In co-operation with the Secretary-General, to submit to the General Assembly reports on its activities at each subsequent session;

5. Invites the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental bodies including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to co-operate fully with the Committee in the implementation of the present resolution.

17252nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that it is in the common interest of all nations that the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, should be conducted in such a manner as to avoid infringement of the other interests and established rights of nations with respect to the uses of the sea,

Mindful of the threat to the marine environment presented by pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects which might result from exploration and exploitation of the areas under consideration,

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Desiring to promote effective measures of prevention and control of such pollution and to allay the serious damage which might be caused to the marine environment and, in particular, to the living marine resources which constitute one of mankind's most valuable food resources,

Recognizing the complex problem of ensuring effective co-ordination in the wide field of environmental pollution and in the more specific area of prevention and control of marine pollution,

Noting with satisfaction the measures being undertaken by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization to prevent and control pollution of the sea by preparing new draft conventions and other instruments for that purpose,

Recalling, in this regard, the progress achieved towards such concerted action by intergovernmental bodies and the establishment, by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, of a joint group of experts on the scientific aspects of marine pollution,

Recalling further the competence and continuing valuable contributions of the other intergovernmental organizations concerned,

1. Welcomes the adoption by States of appropriate safeguards against the dangers of pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects that might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, notably in the form of concrete measures of international co-operation for the purpose of realizing this aim;

2. Considers that, in connexion with the elaboration of principles underlying possible future international agreements for the area concerned, a study should be made with a view to clarifying all aspects of protection of the living and other resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor, the superjacent waters and the adjacent coasts against the consequences of pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects arising from various modalities of such exploration and exploitation;

3. Considers further that such a study should take into consideration the importance of minimizing interference between the many means by which the wealth of the ocean space may be harvested, and that it should extend to the examination of the circumstances in which measures may be undertaken by States for the protection of the living and other resources of those areas in which pollution detrimental to those resources has occurred or is imminent;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the appropriate and competent body or bodies presently undertaking co-ordinated work in the field of marine pollution control, to undertake the study referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Examination of the question of the 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 the use of their resources in the interests of mankind",

Reaffirming that exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, should be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, taking into special consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries,

Recalling that international co-operation in this field is of paramount importance,

Bearing in mind its resolution A above establishing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, and the mandate entrusted to it,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a study on the question of establishing in due time appropriate international machinery for the promotion of

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the exploration and exploitation of the resources of this area, and the use of these resources in the interests of mankind, irrespective of the geographical location of States, and taking into special consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries, and to submit a 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 1969;

2. Calls upon the Committee to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.

D

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the nations of the world should join together, with due respect for national jurisdiction, in a common long-term programme of exploration of the ocean as a potential source of resources, which should eventually be used for meeting the needs of all mankind with due recognition of those of developing countries and irrespective of the geographical location of States,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science, and for initiating and strengthening marine education and training programmes,

Recalling further the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report,^{2/} pursuant to resolution 2172 (XXI), as well as the various views expressed during the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session,

Noting that the Bureau and Consultative Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization considered the proposed International Decade of Ocean

^{2/} E/4487 and Corr.1-6, and Add.1.

Exploration a useful initiative for broadening and accelerating investigations of the oceans and for strengthening international co-operation,

Endorsing the objectives expressed in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1380 (XLV), 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 and recalling particularly the invitation to the General Assembly to endorse the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research, taking into account such initiatives as the proposal for an International Decade of Ocean Exploration and international programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation in co-operation with other specialized agencies,

Aware of the consideration given to the proposal in the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, arising from the contribution which the International Decade of Ocean Exploration would make to scientific research and exploration of the sea-bed and ocean floor, as an important part of a co-ordinated long-term international programme of oceanographic research,

Seeking to enrich the knowledge of all mankind by encouraging a free flow of scientific information on the oceans to all States,

1. Welcomes the concept of an International Decade of Ocean Exploration to be undertaken within the framework of a long-term programme of research and exploration, including scientific research and exploration of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, under the aegis of the United Nations on the understanding that all such activities falling under the national jurisdiction of a State shall be subject to the previous consent of such State, in accordance with international law;

2. Invites Member States to formulate proposals for national and international scientific programmes and agreed activities to be undertaken during the International Decade of Ocean Exploration with due regard to the interests of developing countries, to transmit these proposals to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in time to begin the Decade in 1970, and to embark on such activities as soon as practicable;

3. Urges Member States to publish as soon as practicable the results of all activities which they will have undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of Ocean Exploration as part of a long-term co-ordinated programme of scientific research and exploration, and at the same time to communicate these results to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

4. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission:

(a) Intensify its activities in the scientific field, within its terms of reference and in co-operation with other interested agencies, in particular with regard to co-ordinating the scientific aspects of a long-term and expanded programme of world-wide exploration of the oceans and their resources of which the International Decade of Ocean Exploration will be an important element, including international agency programmes, an expanded international exchange of data from national programmes, and international efforts to strengthen the research capabilities of all interested nations with particular regard to the needs of the developing countries;

(b) Co-operate with the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2414 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 on the resources of the sea in the preparation of the comprehensive outline of the scope of the long-term programme of oceanographic research of which the International Decade of Ocean Exploration will be an important element, making available its views as to the appropriate relationship between the several international programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation, the Decade, and the long-term programme;

(c) Keep the Secretary-General informed of all proposals, programmes and activities of which it is informed in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 above together with any comments it may consider appropriate;

(d) Report through appropriate channels to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.

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In accordance with the decision taken by the First Committee at its 1648th meeting, on 19 December 1968, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, established under paragraph 1 of resolution A above, will consist of the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, France, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

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A/RES/2414 (XXIII)
27 December 1968



Twenty-third session
Agenda item 41

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/7394)]

2414 (XXIII). International co-operation in problems
related to the oceans

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the considerations set forth in its resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966,

Considering the growing interest of the world community in problems related to the oceans, as they hold promise of providing a rapidly developing world with increasingly needed resources,

Being aware that the present knowledge of the ocean and its resources and of the marine environment is limited and incomplete,

Recognizing the need for extensive exploration and research in order to develop the wealth of the sea for the benefit of all mankind, irrespective of the geographical location of States, taking into account the special needs and interests of developing countries,

Having given preliminary consideration to the report entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals"^{1/} prepared by the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI),

Taking into account the comments of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development,^{2/}

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1380 (XLV), 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV) of 2 August 1968,

^{1/} E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1.

^{2/} See A/7264.

Recalling the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,^{3/}

Taking into account the activities in this field at present being carried out by the United Nations, 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 Meteorological Organization and its Panel on Meteorological Aspects of Ocean Affairs, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other specialized agencies, and also intergovernmental organizations, various Governments, universities, scientific and technical institutes and other non-governmental organizations,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals";
2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to review further this report at its forty-seventh session taking into account such views as may be expressed by Governments of Member States, by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and by the proposed competent organ of the United Nations;
3. Endorses the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research designed to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and to increase, in the interests of world economic development, the resources available to all the people of the world;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive outline of the scope of this long-term programme taking into account such scientific recommendations as may be formulated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization within its terms of reference and in co-operation with other interested international organizations;
5. Recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission should consider strengthening the existing marine educational and training programmes and initiating new programmes in connexion with the implementation of the long-term programme of oceanographic research;

^{3/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, document A/7230.

6. Recommends further improvement of international co-operation in relation to fisheries development and conservation, taking into account the important role played by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries as well as the work of regional and other specialized fishery bodies;
7. Invites Member States and organizations dealing with marine pollution, especially the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to promote the adoption of effective international agreements on the prevention and control of marine pollution as may be necessary;
8. Recognizes the importance of the meteorological aspects of ocean science and calls upon the World Meteorological Organization to continue its activities in this field in close co-operation with other interested organizations
9. Invites the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, to consider the possibility of extending technical assistance services to the Governments of Member States which may request them in relation to the development of mineral resources of their continental shelf areas,
10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to pursue the task of collecting and disseminating available information regarding the mineral and other resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and techniques appropriate for their development and of providing the assistance which the proposed competent organ of the United Nations may request for the solution of related issues;
11. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with 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 Meteorological Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations concerned, to report, through appropriate channels, to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.



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A/RES/2398 (XXIII)
6 December 1968

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 91

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/L.553 and Add.1-4)]

2398 (XXIII). The problems of human environment

The General Assembly,

Noting that the relationship between man and his environment is undergoing profound changes in the wake of modern scientific and technological developments,

Aware that these developments, while offering unprecedented opportunities to change and shape the environment of man to meet his needs and aspirations, also involve grave dangers if not properly controlled,

Noting, in particular, the continuing and accelerating impairment of the quality of the human environment caused by such factors as air and water pollution, erosion and other forms of soil deterioration, waste, noise and the secondary effects of biocides, which are accentuated by rapidly increasing population and accelerating urbanization,

Concerned about the consequent effects on the condition of man, his physical, mental and social well-being, his dignity and his enjoyment of basic human rights, in developing as well as developed countries,

Convinced that increased attention to problems of the human environment is essential for sound economic and social development,

Expressing the strong hope that the developing countries will, through appropriate international co-operation, derive particular benefit from the mobilization of knowledge and experience about the problems of human environment, enabling them, inter alia, to forestall the occurrence of many such problems,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1346 (XLV) of 30 July 1968 on the question of convening an international conference on the problems of human environment,

Bearing in mind the important work on some problems of the human environment at present being undertaken by organizations in the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations (including the Economic Commission for Europe), the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on activities of United Nations organizations and programmes relevant to the human environment,^{1/}

Aware of the important work being done on problems of the human environment by Governments as well as by intergovernmental organizations such as the Organization of Africa Unity and non-governmental organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the International Council of Scientific Unions and the International Biological Programme,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere,^{2/} convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with the participation of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization,

Convinced of the need for intensified action at the national, regional and international level in order to limit and, where possible, eliminate the impairment of the human environment and in order to protect and improve the natural surroundings in the interest of man,

Desiring to encourage further work in this field and to give it a common outlook and direction,

^{1/} E/4553.

^{2/} A/7291, annex.

Believing it desirable to provide a framework for comprehensive consideration within the United Nations of the problems of human environment in order to focus the attention of Governments and public opinion on the importance and urgency of this question and also to identify those aspects of it that can only or best be solved through international co-operation and agreement,

1. Decides, in furtherance of the objectives set out above, to convene in 1972 a United Nations Conference on Human Environment;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session, a report concerning:

(a) The nature, scope and progress of work at present being done in the field of human environment;

(b) The main problems facing developed and developing countries in this area, which might with particular advantage be considered at such a conference, including the possibilities for increased international co-operation, especially as they relate to economic and social development, in particular of the developing countries;

(c) Possible methods of preparing for the Conference and the time necessary for such preparations;

(d) A possible time and place for the Conference;

(e) The range of financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of the Conference;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the report, to consult Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency and appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, and to draw on contributions from appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.