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 utilisation 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) approving the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, 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 realisation 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 seas, including the freedom of research,
2. States Parties to the Treaty shall not, as a rule, refuse requests for consultations as provided for in paragraph 1 of this article.

3. In the event that a request for consultations is refused, the States concerned shall settle their dispute in accordance with the procedure provided for in article 22, paragraph 2 (i), of this Treaty.

Article 16

1. A State Party to the Treaty shall be responsible for ensuring that activities connected with the industrial exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed, including the activities of natural and juridical persons under its jurisdiction or acting on its behalf, are conducted in accordance with this Treaty.

2. A State Party to the Treaty shall be responsible for any damage caused to another State Party to the Treaty as a result of activities on the sea-bed.

Article 17

1. The International Sea-Bed Resources Agency, of which States Parties to this Treaty may become members, is hereby established.

2. The principal organs of the International Agency shall be the Conference of States members of the Agency and the Executive Board.

3. The administrative and technical servicing of the activities of the Agency and its organs shall be undertaken by the Secretariat, headed by the Executive Secretary.

Article 18

1. The Conference of the Agency shall be composed of all States members of the Agency.

2. The functions of the Conference shall be to:

(a) Establish the Executive Board;

(b) Consider and approve the Agency's administrative budget;

(c) Consider general questions relating to the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof;

(d) Adopt resolutions, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, depriving States of the rights and privileges arising from membership of the Agency, in the event of systematic violations of the provisions of this Treaty, and adopt resolutions, depriving States of the said rights and privileges on the recommendation of the United Nations Security Council;

(e) Consider the reports of the Executive Board;

(f) Appoint, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Executive Secretary of the Agency, and consider questions concerning the staff of the Secretariat;