COMMITTEE ON THE PEACE USES OF THE SEA-BED
AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS
OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

TEXTS ILLUSTRATING AREAS OF AGREEMENT
AND DISAGREEMENT ON ITEM 1 OF THE
SUB-COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK:
"STATUS, SCOPE AND BASIC PROVISIONS OF
THE REGIME, BASED ON THE DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES (RESOLUTION 2749 (XXV))"
Every State shall have the responsibility to ensure that activities in the Area, including those relating to the industrial exploration and exploitation of 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 provisions of these Articles. 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.

On the part of the State or international organization concerned, in respect of activities which it undertakes itself or authorizes, a State Party to these Articles shall be responsible for any damage caused to another State Party to these Articles as a result of its activities on the sea-bed.

A group of States acting together shall be jointly and severally responsible under these Articles.

Each Contracting Party shall:

(i) Take appropriate measures to ensure that those conducting activities under its authority or sponsorship comply with these Articles.

(ii) Make it an offence for those conducting activities under its authority or sponsorship in the Area to violate the provisions of these Articles. Such offences shall be punishable in accordance with administrative or judicial procedures established by the Authorizing or Sponsoring Party.

* See introductory note.

Although the Working Group carried out a second reading of this Article, it was agreed that the scope and complexity of the subject-matter were such that it would be necessary for the Group to give further detailed consideration to the issues involved at a later stage. The view was expressed that the matter needed to be examined in the light of Article 9, (Who May Exploit the Area).

The Working Group may wish to consider whether to include reference here to the question of limits of liability as well as to other liability questions.
(iii) Be responsible for maintaining public order on manned installations and equipment operated by those authorized or sponsored by it.

(iv) Be responsible for damages caused by activities which it authorizes or sponsors to any other Contracting Party or its nationals.

(v) Be responsible for carrying out all measures necessary for the restoration of any damaged property or area to its condition immediately prior to such damage.

[4. Every Contracting Party/State shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the responsibility provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply mutatis mutandis to international organizations of which it is a member.]