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

DRAFT STATUTE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
SEA-BED AUTHORITY

As submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania

The Contracting Parties

Recalling resolutions 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, 2467 (XXIII) of
31 December 1968, 2574 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, and 2750 (XXV) of
17 December 1970 of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean
Floor and the Subsoil Thereof, Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction adopted
by the General Assembly on 17 December 1970,

Desiring to ensure that the exploration and use of the sea-bed and ocean floor
should be conducted in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter
of the United Nations and in conformity with the Declaration of Principles
Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof, Beyond the
Limits of National Jurisdiction, in the interest of maintaining international peace
and security and for the benefit of all mankind and in particular the interests of
developing countries,

Mindful of the importance of preserving the sea-bed and the ocean floor and
the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction from actions and
uses which might be detrimental to the common interests of mankind,

Hoping to foster greater international co-operation and co-ordination in the
peaceful exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and ocean floor and its
subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

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Characteristics of the Area

Article 4

The sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof and its resources lying beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, as defined in paragraph 1 of Article 3 (hereinafter called the International Sea-bed Area) is the common heritage of mankind and shall, as such, be subject to the régime hereinafter set forth.

Article 5

The International Sea-bed Area shall not be subject to appropriation by any means by States or persons, natural or juridical, and no State shall claim or exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part thereof.

Article 6

No State or person, natural or juridical, shall claim, exercise or acquire, rights with respect to the International Sea-bed Area or its resources incompatible with the provisions of this Convention.

Article 7

The International Sea-bed Area shall be open to use, exclusively for peaceful purposes, by all States, whether coastal or land-locked, without discrimination in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

Article 8

All activities regarding exploration and exploitation of the resources of the International Sea-bed Area, and other related activities, shall be subject to regulation by the International Sea-bed Authority, established pursuant to Article I of this Convention, and shall in all respects be governed by the provisions of this Convention.

Article 9

The exploration of the International Sea-bed Area and the exploitation of its resources shall be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States, whether land-locked or coastal, and taking into particular consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries.
Obligations of the Parties

Article 10

States shall act in the area in accordance with the applicable principles and rules of international law including the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, in the interests of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and mutual understanding.

Article 11

Exploration and exploitation of the resources of the International Sea-bed Area must not result in any unjustifiable interference with other activities in the marine environment.

Article 12

All activities in the International Sea-bed Area shall be conducted with strict and adequate safeguards for protection of human life and safety of the marine environment.

Article 13

All activities of exploration and exploitation of the resources of the Area and other related activities shall be conducted by or on behalf of the International Sea-bed Authority, or by a Contracting Party or group of Contracting Parties or natural or juridical persons under its or their sponsorship, all subject to the general supervision and control of the International Sea-bed Authority.

Article 14

(1) Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate measures to ensure that those conducting activities under its sponsorship comply with this Convention.
(2) Each Contracting Party shall make it an offence for those conducting activities under its sponsorship in the International Sea-bed Area to violate the provisions of this Convention. Such offences shall be punishable in accordance with administrative or judicial procedures established by the Contracting Party sponsoring such activities.