UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COLLECTIVE OF THE PEACEFUL USE OF THE
SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE
LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:
PROVISIONAL DRAFT ARTICLES OF A TREATY ON THE USE
OF THE SEA-BED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

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 utilization 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 Emplace-
ment 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 2747 (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 realization of the Purposes and Principles
of the United Nations Charter and to the strengthening of the principles of intern-
national law governing the freedom of the seas, including the freedom of research,

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Article 12

1. The industrial exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof shall not create any unjustifiable obstacles to activities in the marine environment which are conducted in accordance with the generally recognised principles of international law.

2. Accordingly, the dimensions and configuration of sectors of the sea-bed used for the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof; the location of these sectors in relation to one another and the number of sectors in a particular area of the world's oceans shall not be such that the sectors (even with spaces between them) together form a belt across maritime zones through which the vessels of States having no coastline on the Atlantic, Pacific or Indian Oceans make their way to the waters of these oceans or to the international sea-lanes crossing them.

3. The foregoing provision shall apply also to areas in which the industrial exploration of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof is being undertaken and to the number and location of the installations erected for the industrial exploration of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof.

4. Installations erected for the industrial exploration or exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof shall not be used for military purposes of any kind. In particular, they shall not be used for the emplacement, storage or testing of any military equipment or weapons.

5. Shipping and other activities in the marine environment in the areas in question shall be exercised with reasonable regard for the industrial exploration and exploitation of the aforementioned resources, provided that activities on the sea-bed and in the subsoil thereof are conducted in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 1-4 of this article.

Article 13

States Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, take steps for the orderly and rational exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof.

Article 14

(Question of the distribution of benefits)

Article 15

1. A State Party to this Treaty, which has grounds for believing that activities on the sea-bed by another State Party are contrary to the provisions of this Treaty, may request that consultations be held on the subject of those activities.
(c) Functions in regard to the issue of licences;
(d) Functions in regard to the distribution of benefits;
(e) Supervise compliance with the provisions of articles 10 and 12 of this Treaty;
(f) Consider specific problems arising for land-locked countries in connexion with the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof;
(g) Promote exchanges of scientific and technical information on questions concerning the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof;
(h) Adopt recommendations to States Parties to this Treaty concerning ways of preventing pollution of the marine environment and damage to the living resources of the sea as a result of the industrial exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof;
(i) Assist in settling disputes between States concerning implementation of this Treaty, by applying the means for peaceful settlement listed in Article 33 of the United Nations Charter; and establish, at the request of parties to a dispute, organs of conciliation, arbitration, etc., for settling the dispute;
(j) Consider other questions arising out of the provisions of this Treaty.

Article 23

1. Decisions of the Executive Board on questions of substance shall be made by agreement; decisions on procedural questions shall be made by the majority of the members of the Board present and voting.

2. Decisions relating to article 22, paragraph 2 (i) shall be considered as adopted only if the parties to the dispute so agree.

3. Sessions of the Executive Board shall be held not less than once a year.

Article 24

Any State Party to the Treaty which is not represented on the Executive Board may, if the question under consideration directly affects its interests, participate in the discussions in the Executive Board, without the right to vote.

Article 25

Neither this Treaty nor any rights granted or exercised pursuant thereto shall affect the legal status of the superjacent waters of the high seas, or the legal status of the air space above those waters.

Article 26

None of the provisions of this Treaty or the rights granted to the International Sea-Bed Resources Agency or its organs, and similarly none of the functions exercised by