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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominica, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela: draft resolution

Large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/225, on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, which was adopted by consensus on 22 December 1989,

Also recalling in particular that the General Assembly recommended that all members of the international community agree to certain measures specified in the operative paragraphs of resolution 44/225,

Further recalling the relevant principles elaborated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1/ which are referred to in the seventh to tenth preambular paragraphs of resolution 44/225,

1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

Commending the unilateral, regional and international efforts that have been undertaken by members of the international community and international organizations to implement and support the objectives of resolution 44/225,

Noting that at the Twenty-first South Pacific Forum, held at Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 31 July and 1 August 1990, the Heads of Government reaffirmed their opposition to large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, 2/ and noting also the resolution on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in the South Pacific region, adopted by the South Pacific Conference at Noumea, New Caledonia, on 31 October 1990,

Welcoming the decision of a Member State to suspend driftnet operations in the South Pacific one year in advance of the date of cessation stipulated by the General Assembly, and the decision of other Member States to cease or suspend driftnet fishing,

Noting that the Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, at its 16th meeting, held at Castries, St. Lucia, in November 1989, resolved, in its Declaration, 3/ to establish a regional régime for the regulation and management of the pelagic resources in the Lesser Antilles region that would outlaw the use of driftnets and called upon other States in the region to co-operate in that regard, and noting also the more recent developments in the region covered by the Caribbean Community,

Noting that the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission has been concerned with large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in the North Pacific Ocean, including the need to accumulate scientific knowledge, and has supported the full implementation of Assembly resolution 44/225,

Also noting that the International Whaling Commission, at its 42nd annual meeting, in July 1990, referred to the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets in many areas of the high seas, including important habitats for cetaceans encompassing feeding and breeding grounds and migratory pathways and endorsed Assembly resolution 44/225,

Further noting that, at its first session, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, inter alia, to prepare, for submission to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, a comprehensive report on the impact of large-scale harvesting, and new fishing technologies and fishing technologies incompatible with the sustainable management of living marine resources, taking into account Assembly resolution 44/225, 4/

2/ See A/45/456, annex.

3/ See A/45/64, annex.

4/ A/45/46, annex I, decision 1/20, para. 1 (o).

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the report of the Secretary-General 5/ made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations systems and by various regional and subregional fisheries organizations, in response to the request of the Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 44/225,

Also noting with appreciation the contribution to the report of the Secretary-General made voluntarily by some members of the international community, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations,

Noting that some members of the international community have initiated co-operative efforts to obtain statistically sound data on the impact of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing,

Expressing deep concern about the reported attempts to expand large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean by a member of the international community, in disregard of paragraph 4 (c) of Assembly resolution 44/225,

Expressing concern about that reported reflagging of vessels by some private fishing interests, which is contrary to the spirit and content of resolution 44/225,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 5/
2. Reaffirms its resolution 44/225, and calls for its full implementation by all members of the international community, in accordance with the measures and time-frame elaborated in paragraph 4 of that resolution;
3. Reaffirms the importance of all members of the international community taking such measures as may be necessary to ensure compliance with paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 44/225;
4. Requests the specialized agencies and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as the various global, regional and subregional fishery organizations, to continue to study urgently large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on living marine resources and to report their views to the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the dates set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 44/225;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and well-established scientific institutions with expertise in relation to living marine resources;
6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.