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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Development of national marine science, technology and ocean service infrastructures

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The attached resolution on development of national marine science technology and ocean service infrastructures submitted on behalf of the Group of 77 (A/CONF.62/120 and Corr.1), was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at its eleventh session, on 30 April 1982, by consensus.
2. This resolution is hereby transmitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session in accordance with its paragraph 6.
3. Mention is made of this resolution in the note by the Secretary-General (A/37/561, para. 5) on responsibilities of the Secretary-General as a consequence of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and of related decisions of the Conference and the General Assembly.

ANNEX

Resolution on development of national marine science, technology
and ocean service infrastructure adopted by the Conference at
its 182nd meeting on 30 April 1982

The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,

Recognizing that the Convention on the Law of the Sea is intended to establish a new régime for the seas and oceans which will contribute to the realization of a just and equitable international economic order through making provision for the peaceful use of ocean space, the equitable and efficient management and utilization of its resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment,

Bearing in mind that the new régime must take into account, in particular, the special needs and interests of the developing countries, whether coastal, land-locked, or geographically disadvantaged,

Aware of the rapid advances being made in the field of marine science and technology, and the need for the developing countries, whether coastal, land-locked, or geographically disadvantaged, to share in these achievements if the aforementioned goals are to be met,

Convinced that, unless urgent measures are taken, the marine scientific and technological gap between the developed and the developing countries will widen further and thus endanger the very foundations of the new régime,

Believing that optimum utilization of the new opportunities for social and economic development offered by the new régime will be facilitated through action at the national and international level aimed at strengthening national capabilities in marine science, technology and ocean services, particularly in the developing countries, with a view to ensuring the rapid absorption and efficient application of technology and scientific knowledge available to them,

Considering that national and regional marine scientific and technological centres would be the principle institutions through which States and, in particular, the developing countries, foster and conduct marine scientific research, and receive and disseminate marine technology,

Recognizing the special role of the competent international organizations envisaged by the Convention on the Law of the Sea, especially in relation to the establishment and development of national and regional marine scientific and technological centres,

Noting that present efforts undertaken within the United Nations system in training, education and assistance in the field of marine science and technology and ocean services are far below current requirements and would be particularly inadequate to meet the demands generated through operation of the Convention on the Law of the Sea,

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Welcoming recent initiatives within international organizations to promote and co-ordinate their major international assistance programmes aimed at strengthening marine science infrastructures in developing countries,

1. Calls upon all Member States to determine their appropriate priorities in their development plans for the strengthening of their marine science, technology and ocean services;

2. Calls upon the developing countries to establish programmes for the promotion of technical co-operation among themselves in the field of marine science, technology and ocean service development;

3. Urges the industrialized countries to assist the developing countries in the preparation and implementation of their marine science, technology and ocean service development programmes;

4. Recommends that the World Bank, the regional banks, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology and other multilateral funding agencies augment and co-ordinate their operations for the provision of funds to developing countries for the preparation and implementation of major programmes of assistance in strengthening their marine science, technology and ocean services;

5. Recommends that all competent international organizations within the United Nations system expand programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries in the field of marine science technology and ocean services and co-ordinate their efforts on a system-wide basis in the implementation of such programmes, paying particular attention to the special needs of the developing countries, whether coastal, land-locked or geographically disadvantaged;

6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
