



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/44/L.41
15 November 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 82 (j)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION;
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SPACES
FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Maldives, Mali, Malta, Paraguay and Vanuatu: draft resolution

Environmental protection of extraterritorial spaces for
present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Noting the initiative taken by the Government of Malta in proposing for consideration by the General Assembly the item entitled "Environmental protection of extraterritorial spaces for present and future generations",

Recalling its resolutions 42/186 of 11 December 1975, 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 43/196 of 20 December 1988 and relevant resolutions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the protection of the environment,

Convinced that effective measures for the comprehensive protection of the global environment must necessarily also provide for the environmental protection of extraterritorial spaces or areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Aware that existing legal régimes govern certain areas beyond national jurisdiction, such as the oceans, outer space and parts of the atmosphere,

Concerned that vast spaces or areas beyond national jurisdiction do not fall within the scope of existing legal régimes regulating activities in certain such areas,

Concerned also that the environment in those extraterritorial spaces that are governed by existing legal régimes may not be adequately protected,

Convinced that a better understanding of the relationship between areas under the jurisdiction and control of States and extraterritorial spaces, such as the oceans, outer space and certain parts of the atmosphere, taking into account the interdependence of such areas and spaces, could enable the international community to adopt co-ordinated and comprehensive measures for the protection of the global environment,

1. Considers that the environmental degradation of areas beyond national jurisdiction is a common concern of mankind;

2. Decides that, in view of the magnitude and complexity of the question of the environmental protection of extraterritorial spaces, an in-depth study and analysis is required as a first step to enable the international community to consider appropriate action within a comprehensive global framework of environmental protection;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme after consultations with the Executive Heads of the International Maritime Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, to establish a Group of Eminent Persons to undertake a study focusing on the current state of the environment in spaces or areas beyond national jurisdiction, to identify where existing régimes regulating areas outside national jurisdiction could possibly be strengthened and more effectively co-ordinated with a view to enhancing comprehensive environmental protection for the benefit of present and future generations; in establishing the Group of Eminent Persons, due attention shall be given to ensuring that its representation is balanced and equitable;

4. Calls upon all Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and non-governmental organizations to assist and support the Group of Eminent Persons in the preparation of the above-mentioned study;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the progress achieved in the preparation of the study by the Group of Eminent Persons;

6. Decides to include this item in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session.
