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RESOURCES OF THE SEA

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. K.K. CHRISTIANSEN (Norway)

1. At its 1676th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1968, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 41 entitled "Resources of the sea: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 1192nd, 1193rd, 1224th, 1226th to 1229th, 1231st, and 1244th to 1246th meetings, held between 15 October and 12 December 1968. At the 1224th and 1231st meetings, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.^{1/} At the 1224th meeting, it heard a statement by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,^{2/} and at the 1226th meeting, a statement from the World Meteorological Organization was read to the Committee.^{3/}
3. In considering the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/7245), the report of the Secretary-General (E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1); a note by the Secretary-General concerning the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (A/C.2/244) and the relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.^{4/}

^{1/} See A/C.2/SR.1224 and 1231.

^{2/} See A/C.2/SR.1224.

^{3/} See A/C.2/SR.1226.

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7203), chapter VI, section B.

4. The Committee also had before it two draft resolutions, the texts of which are reproduced in sections I and II below.

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5. At the 1244th meeting, the representative of Iceland, on behalf of the delegations of Canada, Iceland, Libya, Malta, Norway, the Philippines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1034), which read as follows:

"Exploitation and conservation of living marine resources

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science, and for development of marine resources, with due regard for the conservation of fish stocks,

"Having considered the report entitled 'Resources of the sea beyond the continental shelf' prepared by the Secretary-General under Economic and Social Council resolution 1112 (XL) of 7 March 1966 and the report entitled 'Marine Science and Technology: Survey and Proposals' prepared under General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI),

"Recalling resolution 1381 (XLV) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 2 August 1968,

"Taking into account the valuable and extensive work accomplished and being carried out in this field by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, other specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations concerned, striving towards an increase in the world's food production,

"Deeply concerned that a large proportion of the world's population continues to suffer from malnutrition and notably from lack of proteins,

"Mindful of the importance of the living resources of the sea as one of mankind's most important food resources,

"Realizing the increasing importance of maximizing the sustainable yield of the living marine resources through conservation and rational development,

"Aware of the grave danger of over-exploitation and depletion of these resources to which the rapid progress in fisheries technology is contributing,

/...

"1. Invites Governments of Member States, pursuant to the Secretary-General's recommendations in his report on marine science and technology, to increase international co-operation in the field of development and exploitation of living marine resources, with particular emphasis upon the need for rational exploitation and conservation of fish stocks, taking into account the valuable work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries as well as of regional and other specialized fishery bodies, and having regard to the special needs of the developing countries;

"2. Urges the United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned to take measures for further improvement of international collaboration in relation to fisheries development and conservation;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council on the specific measures which have been taken by Member Governments as well as by the international organizations concerned in implementation of this resolution, and the Economic and Social Council to report thereon to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly."

6. At the 1246th meeting, the sponsors presented a revision to the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1035/Rev.1), which included the following changes:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "outside the limits of national jurisdiction" were inserted after the words "to increase international co-operation in the field of development and exploitation of living marine resources";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the following words were inserted after the words "Requests the Secretary-General": "in collaboration with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with Governments of Member States and of other international organizations concerned,".

7. The Maldives Islands and Mauritius joined as sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, in accordance with suggestions made by the representatives of Pakistan, Peru and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the following changes were made by the sponsors:

(a) Operative paragraph 1 was reworded to read:

"1. Invites Governments of Member States to increase international co-operation in the field of development and exploitation of living marine resources outside the limits of national jurisdiction, having regard to the special needs and interests of the developing countries and with particular emphasis upon the need for rational exploitation and conservation of fish stocks, taking into account the valuable work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, as well as of regional and other specialized fishery bodies;"

(b) The following words were added at the end of operative paragraph 2:

"and of technical assistance, where requested by developing countries;"

9. The Committee then voted on the draft resolution, as orally revised, and adopted it by 60 votes to none, with 5 abstentions (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution I).

10. Statements in explanation of vote were made at the same meeting.^{5/}

11. At the 1245th meeting, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of the delegations of Belgium, Ceylon, Ghana, Iceland, India, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Malta, Mauritius, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Southern Yemen, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1035/Rev.1), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the considerations set forth in resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966,

"Considering the growing interest of the world community in problems related to the oceans as they hold promise of providing a rapidly developing world with increasingly needed resources,

"Being aware that the present knowledge of the ocean and its resources as well as the marine environment is limited and incomplete,

"Recognizing the need of extensive exploration and research in order to develop the wealth of the sea for the benefit of all mankind, taking into account the special needs of developing countries,

^{5/} See A/C.2/SR.1246.

"Having given preliminary consideration to the report entitled 'Marine Science and Technology: Survey and Proposals' prepared by the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI),

"Taking into account the comments presented by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, as contained in document A/7264,

"Recalling resolutions 1380, 1381 and 1382 (XLV) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 2 August 1968,

"Recalling the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

"Taking into account the activities in this field at present carried out by the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, the World Meteorological Organization and its Panel on Meteorological Aspects of Ocean Affairs, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations, various Governments, universities, scientific and technical institutes, and other non-governmental organizations,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on 'Marine Science and Technology: Survey and Proposals' (E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1);

"2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to review further this report at its forty-seventh session taking into account such views as may be expressed by Governments of Member States, by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, 6/

"I. Long-term programme of oceanographic research

"3. Endorses the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research designed to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and to increase, in the interests of world economic development, the resources available to all people of the world;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to present the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council with a comprehensive outline of the scope of this long-term programme taking into account such scientific recommendations as may be formulated by the IOC of UNESCO within its terms of reference and in co-operation with other interested international organizations;

6/ The creation of this Committee is envisaged in draft resolution A/C.1/L.425/Rev.1.

"II. International co-operation in marine science and technology

"5. Recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its IOC should consider strengthening the existing marine educational and training programmes and initiating new programmes in connexion with the implementation of the long-term programme of oceanographic research;

"6. Recommends further improvement of international co-operation in relation to fisheries development and conservation, taking into account the important role played by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries as well as the work of regional and other specialized fishery bodies;

"7. Invites Member States and organizations dealing with marine pollution, especially the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to promote the adoption of effective international agreements on prevention and control of marine pollution as may be necessary;

"8. Recognizes the importance of the meteorological aspects of ocean science and calls upon the World Meteorological Organization to continue its activities in this field and to co-operate closely with other organizations in dealing with meteorological aspects of ocean science;

"9. Invites the Secretary-General to co-operate with the United Nations Development Programme with a view of extending technical assistance services to the Governments of Member States which may request them in relation with the development of mineral resources of their continental shelf areas;

"10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to pursue the task of collecting and disseminating available information regarding the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and techniques appropriate for their development and of providing the assistance which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction 6/ may request for the solution of related issues;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, the World Meteorological Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations concerned, to report, through appropriate channels, to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution."

12. The following changes were made orally by the sponsors at the same meeting:

(a) At the suggestion of Afghanistan and Austria, on behalf of a number of countries, the words "irrespective of the geographical location of States" were inserted, in the fourth paragraph of the preamble, before the words "taking into account the special needs of developing countries";

(b) In operative paragraph 8, at the suggestion of the representative of India, the words "and to co-operate closely with other organizations in dealing with meteorological aspects of ocean science" were replaced by the words "in close co-operation with other interested organizations";

(c) The first part of operative paragraph 9, at the suggestion of the representative of India, was revised to read: "Invites the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, to consider the possibility of extending technical assistance...".

13. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

14. At the 1246th meeting, the sponsors made the following additional changes:

(a) In the fourth paragraph of the preamble, at the suggestion of the representative of Chile, the words "and interests" were inserted after the words "special needs";

(b) In operative paragraphs 2 and 10, at the suggestion the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the words "Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction" were replaced by the words "proposed competent organ of the United Nations";

(c) In operative paragraph 10, at the suggestion of the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of Sierra Leone, the words "mineral and other" were inserted before the words "resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor".

15. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without objection (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution II).

16. Statements in explanation of vote were made at the same meeting.^{7/}

^{7/} See A/C.2/SR.1246.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

17. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Exploitation and conservation of living marine resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966 requesting the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science, and for the development of marine resources, with due regard for the conservation of fish stocks,

Having considered the report entitled "Resources of the sea beyond the continental shelf"^{8/} prepared by the Secretary-General under Economic and Social Council resolution 1112 (XL) of 7 March 1966 and the report entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals"^{9/} prepared by the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI),

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1381 (XLV) of 2 August 1968,

Taking into account the valuable and extensive work accomplished and being carried out in this field by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, and by other specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations concerned, striving towards an increase in the world's food production,

Deeply concerned that a large proportion of the world's population continues to suffer from malnutrition and notably from lack of protein,

Mindful of the importance of the living resources of the sea as one of mankind's most important food resources,

Realizing the increasing importance of maximizing the sustainable yield of the living marine resources through conservation and rational development,

Aware of the grave danger of the over-exploitation and depletion of these resources, to which the rapid progress in fisheries technology is contributing,

1. Invites Governments of Member States to increase international co-operation in the field of development and exploitation of living marine resources outside the

^{8/} E/4449 and Add.1 and 2.

^{9/} E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1.

limits of national jurisdiction, having regard to the special needs and interests of the developing countries and with particular emphasis on the need for rational exploitation and conservation of fish stocks, taking into account the valuable work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries and also of regional and other specialized fishery bodies;

2. Urges the United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned to take measures for the further improvement of international collaboration in relation to fisheries development and conservation, and of technical assistance, where requested by developing countries;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of other international organizations concerned, to report to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session on the specific measures which have been taken by Governments of Member States and by the international organizations concerned in implementation of the present resolution, and request the Economic and Social Council to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

Draft resolution II

International co-operation in problems related to the oceans

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the considerations set forth in its resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966,

Considering the growing interest of the world community in problems related to the oceans, as they hold promise of providing a rapidly developing world with increasingly needed resources,

Being aware that the present knowledge of the ocean and its resources as well as the marine environment is limited and incomplete,

Recognizing the need of extensive exploration and research in order to develop the wealth of the sea for the benefit of all mankind, irrespective of the geographical location of States, taking into account the special needs and interests of developing countries,

Having given preliminary consideration to the report entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals"^{10/} prepared by the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI),

Taking into account the comments of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development,^{11/}

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1380 (XLV), 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV) of 2 August 1968,

Recalling the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,^{12/}

Taking into account the activities in this field at present being carried out by the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, the World Meteorological Organization and its Panel on Meteorological Aspects of Ocean

^{10/} E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1.

^{11/} See A/7264.

^{12/} A/7230.

Affairs, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other specialized agencies, and also intergovernmental organizations, various Governments, universities, scientific and technical institutes and other non-governmental organizations,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals";^{13/}
2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to review further this report at its forty-seventh session taking into account such views as may be expressed by Governments of Member States, by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and by the proposed competent organ of the United Nations;
3. Endorses the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research designed to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and to increase, in the interests of world economic development, the resources available to all the people of the world;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive outline of the scope of this long-term programme taking into account such scientific recommendations as may be formulated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization within its terms of reference and in co-operation with other interested international organizations;
5. Recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission should consider strengthening the existing marine educational and training programmes and initiating new programmes in connexion with the implementation of the long-term programme of oceanographic research;
6. Recommends further improvement of international co-operation in relation to fisheries development and conservation, taking into account the important role played by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries as well as the work of regional and other specialized fishery bodies;

^{13/} E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1.

7. Invites Member States and organizations dealing with marine pollution, especially the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to promote the adoption of effective international agreements on prevention and control of marine pollution as may be necessary;

8. Recognizes the importance of the meteorological aspects of ocean science and calls upon the World Meteorological Organization to continue its activities in this field, in close co-operation with other interested organizations;

9. Invites the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, to consider the possibility of extending technical assistance services to the Governments of Member States which may request them in relation to the development of mineral resources of their continental shelf areas;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to pursue the task of collecting and disseminating available information regarding the mineral and other resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and techniques appropriate for their development and of providing the assistance which the proposed competent organ of the United Nations may request for the solution of related issues;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, the World Meteorological Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations concerned, to report, through appropriate channels, to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.
