



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/45/64  
22 December 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

LAW OF THE SEA

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 11 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative  
of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

On behalf of the States members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States that are Members of the United Nations, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, I have the honour to request that the attached document, entitled the Castries Declaration, issued on 24 November 1989 at the sixteenth meeting of the Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Law of the sea" and "Development and international economic co-operation".

(Signed) Charles S. FLEMMING  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

The Castries Declaration

The Authority at Castries, St. Lucia, 20-24 November 1989,

We the Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and other ministers plenipotentiaries constituted as the Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS):

Recognizing the increasing importance of marine fisheries to the peoples of the OECS region,

Deeply concerned at the damage being caused to the marine environment by drift nets and other unselective fishing gear in the oceans,

Conscious of the increasing fishing activities of foreign fishing vessels using the drift-net technique in the waters of the OECS region at a time when their use is restricted in certain other regions,

Convinced that any proliferation in the use of these indiscreet, irresponsible and disruptive fishing techniques in the waters of the OECS region can permanently change the nature and abundance of the region's living marine resources,

Considering the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly articles 61, 63, 64, 73, 116, 117, 118 and 119,

Mindful that the indiscriminate use of fishing gear, whether on the high seas or in a coastal State's exclusive economic zone is inconsistent with legal provisions as enunciated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Acknowledging the rights and duties of States to ensure the proper management and conservation of the living marine resources in their exclusive economic zones and the mutual interest of all OECS States to collaborate in order to conserve and protect fisheries stocks,

Resolve to seek 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 drift nets and other disruptive fishing methods by commercial fishing vessels, and call upon other States in the region to co-operate in this regard;

Resolve that all member States of OECS will take all possible measures in the interim to prevent the use of indiscriminate fishing methods in their exclusive economic zones;

Further resolve that member States, acting individually and collectively, will take whatever action possible within relevant regional and international organizations that would contribute towards the global restriction of harmful fishing practices.

Castries, Saint Lucia  
24 November 1989

-----