



General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 74 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 December 2014

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.29 and Add.1)]

69/245. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution 68/70 of 9 December 2013, and other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),¹

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General² and the reports on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the Regular Process),³ of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group),⁴ of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) at its fifteenth meeting⁵ and on the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,⁶

Noting with satisfaction that 16 November 2014 marked the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, and recognizing the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

* Reissued for technical reasons on 10 August 2015.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

² A/69/71 and Add.1.

³ A/69/77.

⁴ A/69/82, annex, and A/69/177, annex.

⁵ A/69/90.

⁶ SPLOS/277.

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204. *Notes* the information compiled by the Secretariat⁹² in relation to the assistance available to and measures that may be taken by developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans, as provided by States and competent international organizations and global and regional funding agencies, and urges them to provide information for the annual report of the Secretary-General and for incorporation on the website of the Division;

205. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009,⁹³ to facilitate its early entry into force;

206. *Encourages* continued cooperation between the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal⁹⁴ and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships;

207. *Notes* the role of the Basel Convention in protecting the marine environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes;

208. *Notes with concern* the potential for serious environmental consequences resulting from oil spill incidents, urges States, consistent with international law, to cooperate, directly or through competent international organizations, and share best practices, in the fields of protection of the marine environment, human health and safety, prevention, emergency response and mitigation, and in this regard encourages the undertaking of and collaboration on scientific research, including marine scientific research, to better understand the consequences of marine oil spills;

209. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990,⁹⁵ and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, of the International Maritime Organization, and in this regard to consider developing and joining regional arrangements to enhance international cooperation for combating major oil and hazardous substances pollution incidents;

210. *Encourages* States to consider becoming parties to the 2010 Protocol to the 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea;⁹⁶

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Marine biodiversity

211. *Reaffirms* its central role relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, notes the work of States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies on those issues, and invites them to contribute, within the areas of their respective competence, to

⁹² A/63/342.

⁹³ International Maritime Organization, document SR/CONF/45.

⁹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1891, No. 32194.

⁹⁶ International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.17/10.

the consideration of these issues within the process initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 66/231;⁹⁷

212. *Welcomes* the holding of the first and second meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, convened in New York from 1 to 4 April 2014 and from 16 to 19 June 2014, in accordance with paragraphs 198 to 200 of resolution 68/70, within the process initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 66/231, with a view to ensuring that the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction effectively addresses those issues by identifying gaps and ways forward, including through the implementation of existing instruments and the possible development of a multilateral agreement under the Convention, and takes note of the exchange of views and progress made at those meetings;⁴

213. *Reaffirms* the commitment made by States in “The future we want” to address, on an urgent basis, building on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group and before the end of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention, and recalls its decision, in resolution 68/70, to establish a process within the Working Group to prepare for such action;

214. *Reaffirms its request*, in resolution 68/70, for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, within its mandate established by resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, and in order to prepare for the decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to make recommendations to the Assembly at the Working Group meeting to be held from 20 to 23 January 2015 on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention;

215. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 68/70, to that end, that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group should meet for three meetings of four days each, with the possibility of the General Assembly deciding that additional meetings would be held, if needed, within existing resources;

216. *Recalls its request* to the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, in order to inform the deliberations of the Working Group, to invite Member States to submit their views on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, for circulation by the Division to Member States as an informal working document compiling the views of States no later than three weeks before the first meeting of the Working Group, and decides that this informal working document will be updated and circulated prior to subsequent meetings;

217. *Recognizes* the abundance and diversity of marine genetic resources and their value in terms of the benefits, goods and services they can provide;

218. *Also recognizes* the importance of research on marine genetic resources for the purpose of enhancing the scientific understanding, potential use and application, and enhanced management of marine ecosystems;

⁹⁷ Resolution 66/231, para. 167.