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PERMANENT MISSION OF MALTA
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Your Ref.

Our Ref. ..UN..1./7/94.

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SECOND COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 82(j)

14 November 1989

Please find attached a copy of a revised draft resolution on "Environmental Protection of Extra-Territorial Spaces for Present and Future Generations" which has been prepared after careful consideration of constructive suggestions made by various delegations in the course of extensive informal consultations.

The delegation of Malta proposes to submit the attached draft resolution officially to the Secretariat by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 November 1989. Delegations interested in joining as co-sponsors of the draft are kindly requested to advise the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations by not later than 11:00 a.m. of Wednesday, 15 November 1989.



Permanent Mission of Member States
to the United Nations
New York

REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION (MALTA)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF EXTRA-TERRITORIAL 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 Extra-Territorial Spaces for Present and Future Generations",

Recalling Assembly resolutions 42/186 of 11 December 1987; 43/53 of 5 December 1988 and 43/196 of 20 December 1988 as well as other 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 provide also for the environmental protection of extra-territorial spaces or areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Aware that existing legal regimes 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 regimes regulating activities in certain such areas,

Concerned also that the environment in those extra-territorial spaces that are governed by existing legal regimes may not be adequately protected,

Convinced that a better understanding of the relationship between areas under the jurisdiction and control of states and extra-territorial 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 coordinated 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;

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2. Decides that in view of the magnitude and complexity of the question of the environmental protection of extra-territorial 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 regimes regulating areas outside national jurisdiction could possibly be strengthened and more effectively coordinated 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.