

In February, 1986, the four states with state enterprises identified as pioneer investors (USSR, France, Japan, India) reached an agreement among themselves, with the assistance of PrepCom Chairman Warrioba, designed to permit registration of their claims by the PrepCom. While this agreement (the Arusha Understanding) addressed the question of the resolution of overlapping claims between themselves it did not do so in terms that would resolve the problem of overlaps with the claims of private consortia.

The Resumed Session of the PrepCom, in New York City, was devoted mostly to the question of possible registration of this first group of applicants and to the related question of mechanisms for resolution of overlapping claims between the USSR and the consortia. Intensive negotiations involving primarily the first group of applicants, western states (including Canada) having interests in sea-bed mining, and the Group of 77 resulted in the adoption by the PrepCom, on September 5, 1986, of a complex understanding (LOS/PCN/L.41/Rev.1-Annex) that provides, inter alia, for a procedure leading in principle to the registration of the first group of applicants at the next session of the PrepCom, in April, 1987, and for intersessional negotiations on overlapping claims which could extend beyond the next session as necessary.