

wide expanses of the ocean floor adjacent to their coasts. Already there exist cases where deep trenches have been ignored and where exploration and preliminary exploitation measures have been initiated beyond them. Clearly it would be unrealistic to ignore these developments.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes that there are certain principles which can and should guide us in our studies. Perhaps the most important of these is that primary interest of coastal states in their off-shore resources which has been recognized in a number of international covenants and which most obviously should continue to be respected in International Law. It is clear from various statements made thus far in this debate that it is recognized that states cannot be expected to abandon rights which have been firmly recognized by international law and which are already being exercised on a worldwide basis. It is in fact well known that in many, and perhaps most coastal states, important sectors of the population may depend for their livelihood on the adjacent resources of the sea. This latter principle has been recognized both in a decision of the International Court of Justice and in the Law of the Sea Conventions.

Another principle which must obviously be maintained is that of non-interference with the freedom of the high seas, subject only to the strict requirements essential for effective