

- c) join in the study of supplementary arrangements to foster international co-operation and regulation of aspects of space communications not adequately covered by existing organizations; and
- d) actively develop legal principles which might govern the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space and, in particular, to promote the conclusion of an appropriate agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space.

7. Promoting International Co-operation in the Use of the Seabed Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction

The exploration and exploitation of the deep seas and the ocean-floor have accelerated to a point where it is generally accepted that the old rules and the old ways no longer wholly suffice. As a result, Malta proposed to the Geneva Assembly in 1967 that the United Nations should examine "the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the seabed and the ocean-floor, and the sub-soil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind".

In 1968 the General Assembly approved the creation of a 42-member Permanent Committee (including Canada) on the seabed with the following terms of reference:

- a) to study the elaboration of some form of international regime for the exploration and use of the seabed, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in the interests of humanity as a whole;
- b) to study the reservation of the seabed exclusively for peaceful purposes, taking into account international disarmament negotiations.

The most fundamental problem connected with the seabed item is the definition of the area said to be "beyond the limits of national jurisdiction". Some developed countries favour a relatively extensive jurisdiction for the coastal states on the basis of the "exploitability test" laid down in the Convention on the Continental Shelf, while others favour a more limited national jurisdiction. Some developing countries challenge the Convention and wish to place the widest area possible under an international regime so elaborated as to reserve the greatest possible benefit for their development