

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

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56th meeting of the First Committee

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to reach agreement on the necessary assumptions. His delegation agreed with the conclusion of the preliminary report that it would be premature and a questionable expenditure of money to embark on a full-scale study until sufficiently accurate data were available.

11. Mr. MWANANG'ONZE (Zambia) said that the representative of the United Kingdom had apparently misunderstood the proposal made by his delegation. The full-scale study referred to in the preliminary report of the Secretary-General meant the definitive study that might become necessary to determine whether a particular developing country which was a land-based producer had had its economy injured by sea-bed mining. What his delegation was proposing was that in the current context and within the existing framework there should be a study highlighting the main features that could lead to problems for the economies of developing land-based producers.

12. Mr. DIOULY-OSSO (Gabon) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Zambia. It might also be necessary for the study to deal with all four sea-bed metals—nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese.

13. Mr. JEANNEL (France) said that it had required a certain amount of daring and good will on the part of the secretariat to carry out the study contained in the preliminary report of the Secretary-General in view of the absence of specific and concrete data. In the circumstances, the secretariat had done all it could, and he commended the Executive Secretary of the Conference and his staff on their efforts.

14. Mr. ZULETA (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) said that the Argentine request for a projection of

the possible effects of sea-bed mining on the flow of investments in mining could be carried out by the secretariat if it were given clear and specific hypotheses.

15. The representative of Zambia had given specific hypotheses for a study on the possible impact of article 151 on metals other than nickel produced by developing land-based producers. However, there had been no reference to the recovery factor for metals other than cobalt. If it was agreed that that factor should also be included, the secretariat would be able to construct preliminary projections. However, it should be borne in mind that with a different set of hypotheses, the projections regarding the impact on the economies of specific countries would change. Finally, he wished to remind members of the Committee that under the rules of procedure, it was his duty to carry out tasks requested by the organs of the Conference and he would accordingly prepare the study requested on the basis of the assumptions outlined by the representative of Zambia if the Committee so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should endorse the requests made by the representative of Zambia so that the secretariat could submit as quickly as possible an addendum to the preliminary report based on the direct wishes of certain developing countries.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

56th meeting

Monday, 29 March 1982, at 11.40 a.m.

President: Mr. P. B. ENGO (United Republic of Cameroon)

Report of the co-ordinators of the working group of 21

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report of the co-ordinators of the working group of 21 (A/CONF/62/C.1/L.30). The working group had taken into consideration all proposals made, and he commended all members of the group on their serious and productive work. It was his hope that, in line with the programme of work of the Conference, the current meeting of the First Committee would be the last one.
2. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee took note of the report of the co-ordinators.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.