



WELLINGTON

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ANTARCTIC RESOURCES - EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION

(Revised draft Recommendation submitted by the United Kingdom)

The Representatives,

Recalling the principles established in the Antarctic Treaty,  
that is to say, inter alia:

- (1) it is in the interest of all mankind that the Antarctic Treaty Area shall continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord;
- (2) the provision for freedom of scientific investigation in the Antarctic Treaty Area contained in Article II;
- (3) the provision for the exchange and free availability of scientific observations and results from the Antarctic Treaty Area contained in Article III;
- (4) the provision contained in Article IV that no acts or activities taking place while the Treaty is in force shall constitute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying a claim to territorial sovereignty in the Antarctic Treaty Area or create any rights of sovereignty;
- (5) the provisions contained in Article VI whereby the Treaty applies to the area south of 60° South Latitude, including all ice shelves ("the Antarctic Treaty Area"), and that nothing in the Treaty prejudices or in any way affects the rights, or the exercise of the rights, of any State under international law with regard to the high seas within the area;
- (6) the provisions for inspection within the Antarctic Treaty Area contained in Article VII.

Acknowledging that the Antarctic Treaty places a special responsibility upon the Contracting Parties to exert appropriate efforts, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, to the end that no one engages in any activity in the Antarctic Treaty Area contrary to the principles or purposes of the Treaty;

Recognising that mineral exploration and resultant exploitation are likely to raise problems of an environmental nature and that the Contracting Parties should assume responsibility for the protection of the environment and the wise use of resources;

Conscious of the special situation in the Antarctic;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. They encourage the publication and interchange of information and international co-operation with a view to promoting scientific studies of Antarctic geology.
2. They study the subject further with a view to its inclusion on the Agenda of the Eighth Consultative Meeting.
3. As an interim measure, commercial exploration for minerals should not take place in the Antarctic Treaty Area, and each government should take appropriate steps, as far as it is concerned, to that end.