

FORUM: Special Political and Decolonization Committee

QUESTION OF: The question of Antarctic territorial claims

SUBMITTED BY: Republic of Chad

CO-SUBMITTERS: Kingdom of Belgium, Hellenic Republic, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Thailand, Tuvalu, Republic of Sierra Leone, Independent State of Papua New Guinea

THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE,

Defines the the nine new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as areas consisting of all waters bounded by the Antarctic Continent to the south, and to the north by a line starting at 50°S 50°W; thence due east to 30°E longitude; thence due north to 45°S latitude; thence due east to 80°E longitude; thence due south to 55°S latitude; thence due east to 150°E longitude; thence due south to 60°S latitude; thence due east to 50°W longitude; thence due north to the starting point,

Confident that although already strict, the restrictions and regulations in order to prevent contamination of the Antarctic by tourists are not efficient enough in achieving their aim,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) is the governing body of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) with the ability to recommend measures to their respective governments to further the principles and objectives of the Antarctic Treaty,

Taking into account that the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is part of the ATS and has the goal to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica,

Noting that the Environmental Protocol states that all activities in the Antarctic shall not cause any significant effects on weather patterns, ecosystems, marine environments and species, especially endangered ones,

Further noting that according to the Environmental Protocol signed in 1991 which entered into force in 1998, mining and drilling are banned until 2048,

Aware of the success other conventions have had in protecting certain species from extinction, in response to hunting and in an effort to prevent the total collapse of the ecosystem, such as the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS),

Bearing in mind that the melting ice has had dramatic effects on the Antarctic krill population, as the breeding grounds of the krill are the bottom of the ice and because these are no longer available the Krill population has dropped by 80% since the 1970s, which threatens the entire ecosystem, as seals, whales and penguins all rely on krill as a source for food,

Deeply concerned by the loss of 25,000 square kilometers of ice in the Antarctic and the rise of sea levels of 3mm since the 1990s due primarily to warming waters,

Recalling that the use of military personnel and equipment in the Antarctic is only allowed as long as they are solely used for peaceful, scientific purposes,

Further recalling that there is little to no international oversight concerning the military presence of any nation in Antarctica and absolutely no accountability,

Realising that there are an estimated 200 billion barrels of oil under the Antarctic ice and it is not

currently economically viable to extract the oil, but it may however become an economically feasible situation once other sources are no longer available and the ice has continued to melt,

Appreciating that the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) has limited the number of permitted tourists and has formulated environmental and safety guidelines which partially go beyond the scope of the Protocol on Environmental Protection and which have been successfully self-regulated by the IAATO and have resulted in a form of tourism that leaves a relatively small footprint on the ecosystem,

1. Recommends the creation of the United Nations Antarctic Administrative Body (UNAAB) that will control and mandate claims on Antarctic land which:
 - a) will comprise of:
 - i. representatives of all signatories
 - ii. experts in relevant fields, such as, but not limited to environmental scientists, representatives of the tourism industry and researchers
 - b) will control all activities in the Antarctic by:
 - i. providing official licence to nations for research, tourism or any other enterprise, by its discretion, following the submission of a written request detailing the project
 - ii. considering the presence and location of pre-existing research centres, resources and tourism ventures as a priority in the approval process
 - iii. considering the impact of any new projects on the Antarctic environment;
2. Emphasizes that all forms of aerial observation and surveillance for tourism and research purposes will be undertaken only after a licence to do so is obtained from the administrative body mentioned in clause 1;
3. Reaffirms, in accordance with Article 1 of the Antarctic Treaty, that the Antarctic shall be used for peaceful purposes only, and that any military measures in the Antarctic including, but not limited to, those of the following nature are prohibited:
 - a) establishment of military bases
 - b) any form of military exercises
 - c) testing of any form of weaponry;
4. Reminds member states of the prohibition in Antarctica of mining or resource extraction (other than for scientific research purposes) according to Environmental Protocol of 1991, and the prohibition of nuclear explosions or disposal of radioactive waste agreed upon in Article V of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959;
5. Invites the IAATO to strengthen and expand its guidelines to reduce the number of tourists allowed to visit Antarctica, in an effort to reduce the footprint on the ecosystem left by the tourism industry;
6. Calls upon all member states to work collaboratively, exchanging information and consulting together on matters of common scientific interest pertaining to Antarctica through ATCM as well as the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR);
7. Urges all member nations to sign and ratify the CCAMLR created in 1980 by the ATS which will help promote cooperation and awareness of the depletion of the Southern Ocean through:
 - a) creating a Fisheries Protected Zone (FPZ) in the nine Antarctic domains now recognized as MPAs in order to set and regulate quotas for how much fishing amongst similar activities will be permitted to the various nations wishing to exploit the economic opportunities off the Atlantic coast
 - b) undertaking new krill biomass surveys, by insisting the krill fishing vessels conduct small-

scale acoustic surveys as part of their fishing operations, in an effort to update the estimates currently available, to enable the CEP to make educated recommendations to the ACTM;

8. Encourages the ATCM in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its signatories to pass further legislation in order to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere so as to prevent the further warming of the oceans;
9. Calls for the establishment of an education program dedicated to spreading awareness of global warming and its effects on Antarctica through advertisement campaigns and press releases;
10. Suggests that the Legal Committee (GA6) take actions to establish a universal code of laws that would apply to all residents of the Antarctic territory;
11. Authorises the dispatch of a UN-sanctioned team of experts that will conduct:
 - a) environmental inspections which would ensure that:
 - i. nations comply with the measures outlined in clause 7 (CCAMLR)
 - ii. nations continue to follow Article V part 1 of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959
 - iii. the environmental health of the region and its careful treatment by nationals of other countries present on Antarctic soil
 - b) inspections of research stations and equipment to ensure that military equipment is used appropriately on the continent by randomly selecting a group of research stations and assigning five experts to the task of:
 - i. determining the usage of data collected by satellites and research stations
 - ii. differences between the military capabilities and the needs of the research
 - c) all its actions such that they are:
 - i. regular, occurring once a year,
 - ii. unbiased, with the presence of nationals from multiple member states on the team,
 - iii. not largely disruptive, ensuring that the team is small and conducts the inspections mainly through observation.