

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



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ANTARCTIC TREATY
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

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ITEM 6. IMPACT OF MAN ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

(Working Document submitted by the Delegations of
Chile and Argentina)

Under the Antarctic Treaty regime, the impact of Man and his activities on the environment of that continent have always been of special concern.

The expression of that concern has been embodied in the different recommendations that have been adopted in relation to it. In these recommendations, together with Agreed Measures for the protection of the Antarctic environment, the Consultative Parties have committed themselves to protect that environment from any harmful human interference, and have assumed the responsibility for informing the international community of any major change deriving from human activities carried out in the Antarctic Treaty zone (Recommendations VI-4; VII-1; VIII-11; VIII-13; IX-5; X-4 and X-6 respectively).

As noted, the activities that Man has been carrying out in Antarctica pursuant to the 1959 Washington Treaty are duly regulated by those aforementioned Recommendations and by other Recommendations which, without making specific reference to this subject, serve also to control human activities such as tourism and non-governmental expeditions to those zones. These activities are subject to their own Regulations.

However, current and future activities in those regions in application of the Conventions adopted under the Antarctic System (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals; Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; the future regime for the exploration and exploitation of Antarctic Mineral Resources which is presently under study), have not been the subject of any specific examination under those policies agreed in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty regime. In spite of this, it should be mentioned that the Consultative Parties have shown special concern with regard to Man's impact on the Antarctic environment in relation to a future regime for the exploration and exploitation of the Antarctic Mineral Resources. This concern was reflected in the Final Report of the IX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

In the light of the above, and in accordance with the major role of the Consultative Parties on the subject, it is felt that they should continue to make it their concern that such activities are also included in the measures for the protection and preservation of the Antarctic environment foreseen by the Washington Treaty in its role as an instrument governing human activities in these zones.

In accordance with the above, it seems advisable that a special item on this topic be included on the Agenda of the XII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting with a view to studying the draft Recommendation given below. The text of the resolution has deliberately been left open so that it might be completed during the discussions to take place during the XII Consultative Meeting.

"The Representatives

Considering the vulnerability of the Antarctic environment to human interference and recalling that major alterations of that environment would have negative consequences with world-wide repercussions;

Recognizing the undertaking of the Consultative Parties to protect the Antarctic environment against all harmful human interference, in accordance with the Declaration in Recommendation VIII-13;

Taking into consideration that by way of numerous Recommendations such as: VI-4; VII-1, VIII-11, VIII-13; IX-5, X-4; X-5 and X-6, measures to preserve and safeguard the Antarctic environment against Man's presence therein, have been adopted in compliance with the responsibility assumed by the Consultative Parties;

Reiterating the relationship existing between the protection of the Antarctic environment and of its dependent ecosystems with the regimes for the utilization of resources;

Taking into consideration the measures for the protection of the Antarctic environment in the Convention for Antarctic Marine Living Resources, in Recommendation XI-1 on mineral resources and in other pertinent recommendations;

Mindful of, among others, the studies carried out by SCAR, by a group of experts appointed by the Consultative Parties and of those studies that are being carried out under the auspices of SCAR;

Mindful that the activities taking place in Antarctica which derive from the application of international agreements arising within the Antarctic System should be covered by the above-mentioned Recommendations;

Declare that, in accordance with the commitment undertaken in Recommendation IX-5, it is the Consultative Parties' duty to see that the activities carried out by Man in Antarctica in application of the new existing international agreements or of agreements arising within the Antarctic System, do not have a harmful impact on the Antarctic environment; and

Recommend to their governments that:

- (a) they adopt the necessary measures so that all activities derived from the international agreements of the Antarctic System are carried out according to the Recommendations already adopted, and those being adopted to such effect, in fulfilment of the objectives of the Antarctic Treaty;
- (b) they make the necessary efforts so that, in the new international agreements to be adopted within the Antarctic System, the measures to ensure the observance of the Recommendations controlling Man's impact on the Antarctic environment are included;
- (c) they urge that the appropriate steps be taken for completion of the studies with regard to the possible effects of future mineral

exploitation on the Antarctic environment and on its related and dependent ecosystems;

(d)

(e)