

ANT/XII/26

25 September 1983

Original: English

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON OPERATION OF THE ANTARCTIC  
TREATY SYSTEM

(Submitted by the Working Party on Items 10 and 11)

23 September 1983

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

OPERATION OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

The Representatives,

Noting that the Antarctic Treaty, based on principles of the United Nations Charter, in the interest of all mankind, establishes Antarctica as an area dedicated exclusively to peaceful purposes, to international harmony and to international scientific cooperation;

Noting further that the Antarctic Treaty, the numerous measures adopted in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty and other instruments and acts associated with it constitute a far-sighted and effective system of international co-operation, which promotes international peace and security, increase in scientific knowledge and understanding, and effective environmental protection;

Desiring to involve the Contracting Parties to the Antarctic Treaty which are not Consultative Parties more closely with the Antarctic Treaty System;

Conscious of the value of increasing public knowledge of the achievements and operation of the Antarctic Treaty System;

Recalling Article III, paragraph 2 of the Antarctic Treaty which encourages co-operative working relations with those Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and international organisations having a scientific and technical interest in Antarctica;

Recommend to their Governments that:

(1) In addition to sending Consultative Parties certified copies of the Report as well as documents of Consultative Meetings as called for in Recommendation I-XIV, paragraph 1, the Government of the host country of each Consultative Meeting shall also send certified copies of the Report/as well as documents of that meeting to all other Contracting Parties;

(2) In furtherance of Article III, paragraph 2, of the Treaty, the Government of the host country shall:

(a) on behalf of the Consultative Parties send a certified copy of the Report of the Consultative Meeting to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and

(b) as and when the Representatives of the Consultative Parties consider it appropriate, draw the attention of any Specialised Agency of the United Nations or other international organisation having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica to any part of the Report of the Consultative Meeting, or any information document submitted to the Meeting and made available to the public, relevant to the scientific or technical interest which that agency or organisation has in Antarctica;

(3) The "Handbook of Measures in Furtherance of the Principles and Objectives of the Antarctic Treaty" be renamed the "Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty" and

- (a) be brought up to date by the host government as soon as possible after each Consultative Meeting;
  - (b) contain an introduction outlining the background and history of the Antarctic Treaty as well as a preface to each section as appropriate giving a brief background to the measures set out in that section. The host government of the XIIth Consultative Meeting will undertake the necessary consultations with a view to the early preparation of such introduction and prefaces; and
  - (c) contain the Final Report (excluding attachments and annexes) from each Consultative Meeting;
- (4)(a) Starting with the XIIIth regular Consultative Meeting Delegations should indicate, when submitting an Information Document, if they intend that document to be publicly available;
- (b) after the closure of the Meeting and provided no Consultative Party has objected, any Consultative Party may make such document publicly available on such terms as it may prescribe;
  - (c) as regards Conference Documents or Information Documents of the I-XIIth Consultative Meeting, and Conference Documents of the XIIIth Consultative Meeting, and



subsequent Meetings, as well as Information Documents that have not been identified in accordance with paragraph (a) above as intended to be publicly available, Consultative Parties will consider in what circumstances such Documents may be made publicly available, with a view to discussing the matter further at the XIIIth Consultative Meeting.

(5) Invite the depository Government to examine the question of information about the Antarctic Treaty System, including publicly available documents arising from Consultative Meetings, with a view to identifying and cataloguing publicly available information about the System and identifying the sources from which such information can be obtained; and

(6) "The Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System" be included on the Agenda of the XIII Consultative Meeting.

ANT/XII/26/REV 1  
28 September 1983  
Original: English

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TREATY SYSTEM

(Submitted by the Working Party on Items 10 and 11)

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Noting that the Antarctic Treaty, based on principles of the United Nations Charter, in the interest of all mankind, establishes Antarctica as an area dedicated exclusively to peaceful purposes, to international harmony and to international scientific cooperation;

Noting further that the Antarctic Treaty, the numerous measures adopted in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty and other instruments and acts associated with it constitute a far-sighted and effective system of international co-operation, which promotes international peace and security, increase in scientific knowledge and understanding, and effective environmental protection;

Desiring to involve the Contracting Parties to the Antarctic Treaty which are not Consultative Parties more closely with the Antarctic Treaty System;

Conscious of the value of increasing public knowledge of the achievements and operation of the Antarctic Treaty System;



Recalling Article III, paragraph 2 of the Antarctic Treaty which encourages co-operative working relations with those Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and international organisations having a scientific and technical interest in Antarctica;

Recommend to their Governments that:

(1) In addition to sending Consultative Parties certified copies of the Report as well as documents of Consultative Meetings as called for in Recommendation I-XIV, paragraph 1, the Government of the host country of each Consultative Meeting shall also send certified copies of the Report as well as documents of that meeting to all other Contracting Parties which were invited to that Meeting;

(2) In furtherance of Article III, paragraph 2, of the Treaty, the Government of the host country shall:

(a) on behalf of the Consultative Parties send a certified copy of the Final Report and Recommendations of regular Consultative Meetings to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and

(b) as and when the Representatives of the Consultative Parties consider it appropriate, draw the attention of any Specialised Agency of the United Nations or other international organisation having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica to any part of the Report of the Consultative Meeting, or any information document submitted to the Meeting and made available to the public, relevant to the scientific or technical interest which that agency or organisation has in Antarctica;



(3) The "Handbook of Measures in Furtherance of the Principles and Objectives of the Antarctic Treaty" be renamed the "Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty" and

- (a) be brought up to date by the host government as soon as possible after each Consultative Meeting,
- (b) contain an introduction outlining the background and history of the Antarctic Treaty as well as a preface to each section as appropriate giving a brief background to the measures set out in that section. The host government of the XIIth Consultative Meeting will undertake the necessary consultations with a view to the early preparation of such introduction and prefaces; and
- (c) contain the Final Report (excluding attachments and annexes) from each Consultative Meeting;

(4)(a) Starting with the XIIIth regular Consultative Meeting Delegations should indicate, when submitting an Information Document, if they intend that document to be publicly available;

(b) after the closure of the Meeting and provided no Consultative Party has objected, any Consultative Party or non-Consultative Party which has been invited to that Meeting may make such document publicly available on such terms as it may prescribe;

(c) as regards Conference Documents or Information Documents of the I-XIIth Consultative Meeting, and Conference Documents of the XIIIth Consultative Meeting, and

subsequent Meetings, as well as Information Documents that have not been identified in accordance with paragraph (a) above as intended to be publicly available, Consultative Parties will consider in what circumstances such Documents may be made publicly available, with a view to discussing the matter further at the XIIIth Consultative Meeting.

(5) Invite the depository Government to examine the question of information about the Antarctic Treaty System, including publicly available documents arising from Consultative Meetings, with a view to identifying and cataloguing publicly available information about the System and identifying the sources from which such information can be obtained; and

(6) "The Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System" be included on the Agenda of the XIII Consultative Meeting.