

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



CANBERRA
13-27 SEPTEMBER
1983

ANTARCTIC TREATY
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

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ITEM 12 : MATTERS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF
OBSERVERS AT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

(Discussion Paper Submitted by the United Kingdom)

AGENDA ITEM 12
MATTERS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS AT
CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Article III paragraph 2 of the Antarctic Treaty states that:

"..., every encouragement shall be given to the establishment of co-operative working relations with those Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica."
2. Such co-operative working relations have been established in the past with some international organizations such as WMO and FAO on an ad hoc basis and have lasted for as long as there has been a need for them. Apart, however, from the appointment of observers from SCAR and WMO for the Second Antarctic Treaty Meeting on Telecommunications, invitations have not been extended to international organizations to attend Antarctic Treaty meetings as observers. It is timely to consider whether it might not now be appropriate to give further effect to Article III (2) of the Treaty by inviting appropriate organizations to be represented as observers where there is an item on the agenda related to their scientific or technical interests. Such observers would be invited to attend only those sessions of the meeting at which that item was being discussed.
3. It would be a normal part of the task of the preparatory meeting for each consultative meeting to consider what, if any, agenda items warranted the issue by the host government of invitations to international organizations to be represented as an observer.

4. There is a distinct but allied question which arises in connection with international bodies to which the Treaty has itself given birth - i.e., the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. It would seem to the U.K. appropriate that the Consultative Parties should accord to the Commission normal observer status at all regular Consultative Meetings.