

## 6. Deep sea mining

*AWARE* that deep sea mining activities are being undertaken by several nations that will disturb or destroy natural systems that have developed without the adverse influence of mankind;

*FURTHER AWARE* that such disturbance of the deep sea bed affects adjacent water masses from the sea bed to the surface and relates to the stability of the ocean environment as a whole;

*RECOGNIZING* that undisturbed natural systems in the deep sea can provide insight into the processes by which valuable mineralized nodules develop;

*NOTING THAT even* incomplete knowledge of deep sea organisms and deep sea ecology confirms great diversity of life and the existence of unique forms of life hitherto unknown;

*CONCERNED* because both species and systems have been shown to develop very slowly and thus are especially vulnerable to the impact of mining activity;

*BEARING IN MIND* that any meaningful evaluation of the effects of ocean mining on marine life requires comparison with areas in which no mining has occurred;

**The General Assembly of IUCN**, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September -5 October 1978:

URGES all nations engaged in, or considering, deep sea mining activities to:

- (a) precede commercial mining operations by commissioning a comprehensive ecological survey to determine the impact of such mining activity; designate appropriate areas of the deep sea bed as baseline reference and resource zones in which no mining will be allowed; designate the size and shape of such area or areas to ensure that their stability will be maintained;
- (b) establish guidelines for scientific research to ensure minimum disruption of the natural state of such areas.