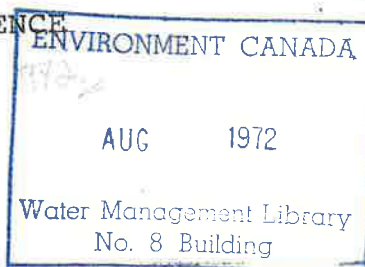




TEXT OF CANADIAN PROPOSALS ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY
IN A PLENARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
ON THE 14th of June 1972



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Governments collectively endorse the following principles
as guiding concepts for the Law of the Sea Conference
and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
(IMCO) Marine Pollution Conference scheduled to be held in
1973.

The twenty-three principles in question are as follows:

1. Every state has a duty to protect and preserve the marine environment and, in particular, to prevent pollution that may affect areas where an internationally shared resource is located.
2. Every state should adopt appropriate measures for the prevention of marine pollution, whether acting individually or in conjunction with other states under agreed international arrangements.
3. States should use the best practicable means available to them to minimize the discharge of potentially hazardous substances to the sea by all routes, including land-based sources such as rivers, outfalls and pipelines within national jurisdiction, as well as dumping by or from ships, aircraft and platforms.

4. States should ensure that their national legislation provides adequate sanctions against those who infringe existing regulations on marine pollution.

5. States should assume joint responsibility for the preservation of the marine environment beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

6. The states at higher levels of technological and scientific development should assist those nations which request it, for example by undertaking programmes either directly or through competent agencies intended to provide adequate training of the technical and scientific personnel of those countries, as well as by providing the equipment and facilities needed in areas such as research, administration, monitoring or surveillance, information, waste disposal and others, which would improve their ability to discharge their duties consisting of protecting the marine environment.

7. States should discharge, in accordance with the principles of international law, their obligations towards other states where damage arises from pollution caused by their own activities or by organizations or individuals under their jurisdiction and should co-operate in developing procedures for dealing with such damage and the settlement of disputes.

8. Every state should co-operate with other states and competent international organizations with regard to the elaboration and implementation of internationally agreed rules, standards and procedures for the prevention of marine pollution on global,

regional and national levels.

9. States should join together regionally to concert their policies and adopt measures in common to prevent the pollution of the areas which, for geographical or ecological reasons, form a natural entity and an integrated whole.

10. International guidelines and criteria should be developed, both by national Governments and through intergovernmental agencies, to provide the policy framework for control measures. A comprehensive plan for the protection of the marine environment should provide for the identification of critical pollutants and their pathways and sources, determination of exposures to these pollutants and assessment of the risks they pose, timely detection of undesirable trends, and development of detection and monitoring systems.

11. Internationally agreed criteria and standards should provide for regional and local variations in the effects of pollution and in the evaluation of these effects. Such variables should also include the ecology of sea areas, economic and social conditions, and amenities, recreational facilities and other uses of the seas.

12. Primary protection standards and derived working levels - especially codes of practice and effluent standards - may usefully be established at national levels, and in some instances, on a regional or global basis.

13. Action to prevent and control marine pollution (particularly direct prohibitions and specific release limits) must guard against

the effect of simply transferring damage or hazard from one part of the environment to another.

14. The development and implementation of control should be sufficiently flexible to reflect increasing knowledge of the marine ecosystem, pollution effects, and improvements in technological means for pollution control and to take into account the fact that a number of new and hitherto unsuspected pollutants are bound to be brought to light.

15. Every state should co-operate with other states and with competent international organizations with a view to the development of marine environmental research and survey programmes and systems and means for monitoring changes in the marine environment, including studies of the present state of the oceans, the trends of pollution effects and the exchange of data and scientific information on the marine environment. There should be similar co-operation in the exchange of technological information on means of preventing marine pollution including pollution that may arise from offshore resource exploration and exploitation.

16. International guidelines should also be developed to facilitate comparability in methods of detection and measurement of pollutants and their effects.

17. In addition to its responsibility for environmental protection within the limits of its territorial sea, a coastal state also has responsibility to protect adjacent areas of the environment from damage that may result from activities within its territory.

18. Coastal states should ensure that adequate and appropriate resources are available to deal with pollution incidents resulting from the exploration and exploitation of seabed resources in areas within the limits of their national jurisdiction.

19. States should co-operate in the appropriate international forum to ensure that activities related to the exploration and exploitation of the seabed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction shall not result in pollution of the marine environment.

20. All states should ensure that vessels under their registration comply with internationally agreed rules and standards relating to ship design and construction, operating procedures and other relevant factors. States should co-operate in the development of such rules, standards and procedures, in the appropriate international bodies.

21. Following an accident on the high seas which may be expected to result in major deleterious consequences from pollution or threat of pollution of the sea, a coastal state facing grave and imminent danger to its coastline and related interests may take appropriate measures as may be necessary to prevent, mitigate, or eliminate such danger, in accordance with internationally agreed rules and standards.

22. Where there is a need for action by or through international agencies for the prevention, control or study of marine pollution, existing bodies, both within and outside the United Nations system, should be utilised as far as possible.

23. States should assist one another to the best of their ability, in action against marine pollution of whatever origin.