

of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>125</sup> and also notes the need for cooperation to address the development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries associated with, inter alia, their lack of direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, in line with the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action;

329. *Also notes* the efforts of the Sargasso Sea Alliance, led by the Government of Bermuda, to raise awareness of the ecological significance of the Sargasso Sea;

#### XIV

##### **Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

330. *Welcomes* the report of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its seventeenth meeting, which focused on the theme of marine debris, plastics and microplastics;<sup>4</sup>

331. *Recognizes* the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21,<sup>6</sup> and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics;

332. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Consultative Process and its contribution to improving coordination and cooperation between States and strengthening the annual debate of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea by effectively drawing attention to key issues and current trends;

333. *Also welcomes* efforts to improve and focus the work of the Informal Consultative Process, and in that respect recognizes the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development, and recommends that the Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea;

334. *Recalls* the need to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Informal Consultative Process, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations and programmes to provide guidance to the Co-Chairs to this effect, particularly before and during the preparatory meeting for the Informal Consultative Process;

335. *Decides* to continue the Informal Consultative Process for the next two years, in accordance with resolution 54/33, with a further review of its effectiveness and utility by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

336. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/33, the eighteenth meeting of the Informal

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<sup>125</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex I.