

## **REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

(Hobart, Australia, 26 October to 6 November, 1992)

### OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1\* The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia from 26 October to 6 November 1992 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Jorge Berguño (Chile).

1.2 All Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Economic Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

1.3 Following established practice, Acceding States were invited to attend as observers, and Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, the Netherlands and Uruguay attended in this capacity.

1.4 In view of Ukraine's fishing activities over many years in the CCAMLR Convention Area and the fact that these operations had continued under Ukraine's recently-changed national status, Ukraine was invited to attend as an observer and was represented at the meeting.

1.5 The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) were invited to attend the meeting as observers. IUCN, IWC, SCAR and ASOC attended.

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\* The first part of the number relates to the appropriate item of the Agenda (Annex 3).

1.6 A List of Participants is at Annex 1. A List of Documents presented to the meeting is at Annex 2.

1.7 The meeting was opened by Ms Penny Wensley, Australian Ambassador for the Environment.

1.8 Ambassador Wensley said that 1992 had been a momentous year for the environment. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June, and agreement on two new, threshold environmental Treaties - on climate change and biodiversity - were milestones.

1.9 Ambassador Wensley said that the principles and objectives of sustainable development were the essential focus of UNCED and lay, also, at the heart of the CCAMLR Convention. UNCED had not concerned itself directly with Antarctica, deferring instead to the Antarctic Treaty System, through which Antarctica had become a model of international cooperation on environmental protection for 30 years.

1.10 The CCAMLR Convention, as an integral element of the Antarctic Treaty System, called for an ability to manage rationally, and implied an ability to predict the effect of perturbing the ecosystem. In taking this total ecosystem approach, CCAMLR was, Ambassador Wensley said, ahead of its time. Looking to the future, she said that the priority for the Commission must be the conduct of useful scientific research which both maintained the integrity of the Convention, and contributed to an expansion of understanding of the Antarctic marine environment. Concluding, Ambassador Wensley said that CCAMLR had anticipated by 12 years the principles of sustainable development adopted by UNCED. It embodied and encapsulated the spirit of Rio de Janeiro and its effective operation would help maintain the momentum of UNCED. The Commission's task now was to ensure that the implementation of the Convention continued to meet the highest aspirations set by the international community in Rio de Janeiro.