

Committee: POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL

Topic: DETERMINATION OF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL WATER-BASED RESOURCES

Country: CANADA

The country of Canada feels that it is important to determine an equitable access to international water-based resources, to, indeed, avoid tensions and conflicts between countries over a body of water.

First of all, Canada is a Federal Parliament Constitutional monarchy located in Northern America. This country of 35.7 million inhabitants is governed in Ottawa by the General Governor David JOHNSTON and the Prime Minister Justin TRUDEAU. Canada is one of the most highly developed countries on earth, ranked 8th in the standard of living index (0.902) for several years. The Canadian economy is based on the extraction of natural resources such as wood, gas, petroleum products, minerals (iron, uranium, copper, aluminum, gold, zinc and nickel) but it is also a sea based economy. With an average of 7, 1 million square kilometers of maritime space, including 2. 9 million square kilometers of EEZ (Exclusive Economy Zone), Canada has the 7th biggest sea EEZ.

In addition, Canada is the second biggest geographic territory behind Russia. This is why the government has, in 2013, requested to the UN the possibility to extend its territory to Arctic waters.

Canada has always been closely connected to the seas. One of the most astounding historical evidence is its motto: "*A Mari Usque Ad Mare*" which means "*From Sea to Sea*".

Concerning Canada, the right to Arctic waters is very important. It is estimated that today Arctic waters contain approximately 30% of undiscovered gas and 13% of undiscovered oil world reserves. Furthermore, Arctic waters contain many other resources like iron, silver, diamonds, uranium, nickel, rare soil (used in electronic components) and of course Arctic waters are rich in fish. Even through 90% to 95% of those resources are already included in other polar countries' EEZ (Canada, USA, Russia, Denmark, Norway), the Arctic is being preyed by tensions resulting from different actions of countries such as Russia (which are threatening this area by different meaning). Russia is building military bases on its Arctic littoral, has a powerful nuclear ice-breaker navy, and in 2007, has made a strong political and media statement when one of its submarines nailed a Russian flag in titanium under 4200 meters of water on the exact position of the north pole.

As you may know, ice is melting rapidly in the poles. For the first time during the summer of 2014, commercial boats used the North-West route in order to connect Asia to Europe. Another route has been opened on the Russian Arctic side. Called the North-East route, this new passage is already open year round and is controlled by four Russian nuclear powered ice-breakers. This passage is currently and solely used for Russian economic purposes.



The north-west route will pass by the Canadian waters. Negotiation are being done with the government of the United States of America in order to permit the commercial opening of this way by the Bering Sea. These reasons have brought Canada to demand an extension of its sea territory.

The country of Canada would like to propose the next coming resolution:

The delegation of Canada proposes that all countries, recognized by the United Nations, have the right to access a water-body, where the country will be able to exploit resources –material or substances- in order to assure an economic gain. This motion will be place under the jurisdiction of the UN Convention on the law of Sea, and on top of the criteria imposed by these laws, the delegation of Canada, taking into account environmental and political issues, would like to be assured that all countries demanding an access to international waters or demanding an extension of its water body will apply the two following points:

- All countries extending or incorporating a new land of water to its territory will be obliged to place under environmental protection at least 15% of this new acquisition;
- This new acquisition will be calculated considering the number of inhabitants and the inhabitable area available in this requesting country.
- All countries should stop exploiting all areas before critical environmental danger, concerning the ecosystem.

The delegation of Canada is excepting that decision taken by the Committee in favor of this motion will not jeopardize its economy. Canada's international maritime trade was worth \$170 billion in 2010.

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