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QUESTION OF: **ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF RESOURCE EXTRACTION IN THE DEEP SEA**

The General Assembly,

Recalling Article 136 and Article 137 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which designate the Area as a World Heritage Site of Mankind, where no state or entity may claim or exercise sovereignty or rights over its resources,

Recognizing the substantial technological and infrastructural investments required for deep sea mining, which pose significant financial burdens, driven by the perpetual human demand for resources,

Deeply concerned about mining activities potentially impacting the feeding and reproduction of deep-sea species through the creation of intense noise and light pollution in naturally dark and silent environments, thereby disrupting abyssal marine life,

Noting with concern the exponential growth in global raw material consumption, from 2.65 billion tonnes in 1970 to 9.74 billion tonnes in 2019, driven by population increases, and the associated economic focus of member states,

Concerned about the high costs and uncertain returns of deep-sea mining, which render it a risky venture,

Expressing concern that deep-sea mining could release stored CO₂ in sediments, thereby limiting the ocean's capacity to sequester carbon, despite currently absorbing 30% of human-emitted carbon.

1. Emphasizes the need for a robust Regional Environmental Management Plan to protect the marine environment, preserve biodiversity, and safeguard ecosystem functions during seabed mining, including designated Areas of Particular Environmental Interest with clear guidelines, standards, and consequences for non-compliance;

2. Requests countries to allocate a portion of deep-sea mining revenues to fund marine conservation efforts and create financial incentives for environmental protection, utilizing specific royalties and environmental taxes for a dedicated marine conservation fund;
3. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with relevant international and regional bodies, to facilitate the exchange of best practices, provide technical assistance, and promote capacity-building initiatives related to sustainable management of deep-sea resources;
4. Further requests adherence to the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition's position statement, advocating for a moratorium on deep seabed mining until comprehensive understanding of environmental, social, and economic risks is achieved, including adoption of exploitation regulations by the International Seabed Authority and halting issuance of new contracts;
5. Calls upon the United Nations to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) globally where mining activities should be prohibited, in cases where a moratorium cannot be achieved;
6. Urges member states to invest in satellite and underwater monitoring technologies to monitor the impacts of deep sea extraction activities effectively;
7. Urges the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to finalize exploration regulations by 2025 and develop a new agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regarding marine biodiversity, adopted in 2023;
8. Further requests member states to conduct comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before approving any deep extraction projects;

9. Supports the development of alternative economic activities such as sustainable fisheries and ecotourism to reduce dependency on mining;

10. Recommends implementing restoration projects like habitat addition to Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges to rehabilitate ecosystems affected by seabed mining, including coral transplantation and habitat reconstruction;

11. Calls for increased investment in scientific research under the Deep Ocean Stewardship initiative to enhance understanding of deep-sea ecosystems and mining impacts;

12. Further recommends the use of technologies that minimize physical disturbance to marine life and reduce noise pollution;

13. Urges implementation of best practices and technologies to minimize environmental impact, including sediment plume reduction and avoidance of sensitive areas;

14. Considers innovative mining methods aimed at minimizing disruption to the seafloor and reducing collateral damage to marine life.