

At the 10th session of the Commission, following informal consultations and taking into account the specific elements of the submission as well as the need to ensure, to the extent possible, a balanced scientific and geographical representation, the following seven members of the Commission were nominated to the Subcommittee for the consideration of the Russian submission: Alexandre Tagore Medeiros de Albuquerque, Lawrence Folajimi Awosika, Galo Carrera Hurtado, Peter F. Croker, Karl H. F. Hinz, Iain C. Lamont and Yong Ahn Park. The composition of the Subcommittee was approved by consensus.

The Commission confirmed that the Subcommittee should be guided in its work, inter alia, by the document entitled "Internal procedure of the subcommittee of the Commission on the Limits on the Continental Shelf" (CLCS/L.12), adopted at its ninth session (CLCS/29, para. 9). It was also decided that the Subcommittee would use English as its working language.

The Subcommittee elected Galo Carrera Hurtado as its Chairperson, Karl H. F. Hinz as its Vice-Chairperson, and Peter F. Croker as the Rapporteur.

After the adjournment of the plenary of the Commission, the Subcommittee continued its work through 12 April, the end of the tenth session of the Commission. The Subcommittee met twice daily and convened 20 meetings. Six afternoon meetings were devoted to consultations in the form of questions and answers between members of the Subcommittee and the experts of the delegation of the Russian Federation who had presented their country's submission during the previous week to the plenary of the Commission.

A number of points of clarification were sought from members of the Russian delegation and additional data and information were requested. Some of the requested material was submitted during the session and the representatives of the submitting State committed themselves to presenting additional data and information by mid-May, so that at its next meeting the Subcommittee could continue the preparation of its recommendations to the Commission in accordance with article 6 (1) of Annex II to the Convention.

Upon the recommendation of some members of the Subcommittee, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea organized a visit to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York, where several of its members examined the SCICEX-1999 data in the Ocean Drilling Program Data Bank in order to review recent data containing several seismic tracklines and multi-channel seismic and swath bathymetry data.

Furthermore, the staff of the Division provided, inter alia, the technical infrastructure and technical assistance for the Subcommittee by preparing and plotting illustrative maps, created on the basis of the data contained in the submission of the Russian Federation, and assisted in preparing the diagrams and tables for the assessment of the submission.

The members of the Subcommittee expressed their great satisfaction with the technical preparedness of the Division and with the availability of state-of-the-art technical equipment, which was used to full advantage by the members in their assessment of the submission. The technical premises set aside for the Subcommittee for the examination of the submission were very well situated, allowing the members efficient access to the technical secretariat, the conference facilities and the library of the Division.

During its eleventh session, held in New York from 24 to 28 June 2002, the Commission deliberated on the recommendations prepared by the Subcommittee. The Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. Carrera, made a presentation on the work of the Subcommittee and on the

recommendations. He stated, inter alia, that following its establishment during the tenth session of the Commission on 28 March 2002, the Subcommittee had undertaken a brief review of the submission and had come to the conclusion that the consideration of the submission would take more than two weeks. That had been reported to the Commission on the same day. He further stated that the Subcommittee had reconvened on 1 April and had held a total of 20 meetings between 1 and 12 April 2002. Six afternoon meetings had been devoted to consultations in the form of questions and answers between members of the Subcommittee and the group of experts of the delegation of the Russian Federation. Thirty-six questions had been posed by the Subcommittee and written answers had been provided by the team of experts of the Russian Federation during the consideration of the Russian submission.

He further noted that a number of points of clarification had been sought from members of the delegation of the Russian Federation, and additional data and information had also been requested. Some of the requested material had been submitted during the consultations. Other additional materials had been provided to the Subcommittee through the Secretariat on 15 May 2002.

Following those consultations, Mr. Carrera stated, the members of the Subcommittee had agreed on the format, contents and main conclusions of a document bearing the working title "Outline recommendations of the Subcommittee". Different members of the Subcommittee were given the task of drafting the various parts of the document during the inter-sessional period. The Subcommittee decided to reconvene in New York from 10 to 14 June 2002, before the expiration of the term of office of the first membership of the Commission on 15 June 2002. The Subcommittee met throughout the week of 10 June 2002 to consider the new material which had been submitted and to finalize its recommendations. Upon the completion of its work, the Subcommittee submitted its final recommendations dated 14 June 2002 through the Secretariat to the Commission at the present session.

In the second part of his presentation Mr. Carrera elaborated on substantive elements of the recommendations.

After a series of deliberations and informal consultations, the Commission concluded its examination of the recommendations prepared by the Subcommittee, made several amendments to it and adopted the recommendations of the Commission by consensus. In conformity with the provisions of the Convention, the recommendations of the Commission will be submitted in writing to the coastal State that made the submission, via the Secretariat, and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.