Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 30

LAW OF THE SEA

Protection and preservation of the marine environment

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Page 4, paragraph 2

For the existing text substitute

2. The report consists of five sections. Section II gives an overview of the Convention as embodying a global framework of new environmental law, a mechanism for accommodating ocean uses and interests, a system for environmentally sound and sustainable development, an instrument promoting the development and transfer of marine science and marine technology within the context of the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and a model for the evolution of international environmental law. Section III presents an analytical summary of those provisions of the Convention which relate to the protection and preservation of the marine environment. Section IV contains a survey of multilateral treaties relevant to the provisions of the Convention in order to assess the extent to which those provisions have already been reflected or developed in the instruments adopted at the global and regional levels. Section V contains an assessment of the current state of the marine environment. On the basis of the survey and assessments made in sections IV and V, an attempt is made in section VI to identify major areas on which future actions should be focused.

2. Page 11, paragraph 37, third sentence

For The third fundamental obligation of States

read The fourth fundamental obligation of States
113, The global yield of fisheries has continued to increase in the past decade, but a combination of overfishing and stock fluctuations due to natural events has led to the decline of certain fisheries and to greater instability in others. Modern technology, including the increasing use of indiscriminate fishing methods, has had a profound effect on both fish harvesting and living resource management and conservation. Fish can now be harvested to the limits of their sustainable yield with a relatively small fleet of well-equipped vessels. These developments have created a growing number of fish-stock management and environmental problems, particularly in high seas, and are a matter of growing concern to a number of coastal States. The Tarawa Declaration, signed by Heads of Government at the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held on 10 and 11 July 1989 (see A/44/463, annex), reflects the impact of developments in the South Pacific region. With respect to drift-netting in the North Pacific, the United States and Japan reached an agreement on 23 June 1989, and an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Korea was concluded on 8 September 1989. The American Institute in Taiwan (representing United States interests) reached a drift-net agreement with the authorities there on 25 August 1989.

4. Page 30, paragraph 129, third sentence

The sentence should read

It may, therefore, be useful to study the possibility of establishing specific guidelines to prevent, reduce and control pollution from such operations.