



**Statement
on behalf of the
Republic of South Africa
by**

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Before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

**under Agenda Item 175
Request for observer status for the International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea in the General Assembly**

12 October 2018

Chair

I thank you for affording me the floor. South Africa associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Norway.

South Africa considers the protection of the environment and sustainable use of resources, and more specifically oceans and marine resources, to be of extreme importance, particularly in light of the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As such, South Africa is one of the Member States co-sponsoring the draft resolution on the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

The ICES is an intergovernmental marine science organisation with twenty member states. It coordinates and promotes research on oceanography, the marine environment, ecosystems, and living marine resources.

Part of the work carried out by the ICES is the provision of the best available science to enable policy makers to make informed decisions on the sustainable use of the marine environment and ecosystems.

The 2018 Sustainable Development Goals Report highlighted the critical importance of intensifying research capacity for *inter alia* the preservation of marine resources and underscored the continuing need for effective strategies and management to advance sustainable use and conservation of the oceans.

Therefore, the work of the ICES is integral to the promotion of SDG 14 on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Moreover, whilst the focus area of the ICES is in the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent sea areas, other countries could benefit from the work carried out by ICES, including through guidance to both researchers and policy makers in other regions.

ICES fulfils the criteria for observer status in the UN General Assembly as set out by the General Assembly in its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994, as it is an intergovernmental organisation dealing with matters of interest to the General Assembly.

By allowing the ICES observer status to the General Assembly it would aid in contributing to SDG 14 and offer much needed information on ocean sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, and conservation and management of resources. It is for this reason that South Africa supports and urges other states to support the request of the ICES for observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations.