ARTICLE 6 – FUNCTIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall:

(a) review the state of fishery resources, including their abundance and the level of their exploitation;

(b) promote and, as appropriate, co-ordinate research activities as required on the fishery resources and on straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area, including discarded catch and the impact of fishing on the marine environment;

(c) evaluate the impact of fishing on the fishery resources and on the marine environment, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area, other human activities and environmental factors;

(d) formulate and adopt conservation and management measures necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available;

(e) adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

(f) develop rules for the collection and verification of scientific and statistical data, as well as for the submission, publication, dissemination and use of such data;

(g) promote cooperation and coordination among Contracting Parties to ensure that conservation and management measures for straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area and measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties for the fishery resources are compatible;

(h) develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties including, where appropriate, a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation, and rules concerning the boarding and inspection of vessels operating in the Area;

(i) develop and monitor measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

(j) in accordance with international law and any applicable instruments, draw the attention of any non-Contracting Parties to any activities which undermine the attainment of the objectives of this Agreement;

(k) establish the criteria for and rules governing participation in fishing; and

(l) carry out any other tasks and functions necessary to achieve the objectives of this Agreement.

2. In determining criteria for participation in fishing, including allocation of total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort, the Contracting Parties shall take into account, *inter alia*, international principles such as those contained in the 1995 Agreement.

3. In applying the provisions of paragraph 2, the Contracting Parties may, *inter alia*:

(a) designate annual quota allocations or fishing effort limitations for Contracting Parties;

(b) allocate catch quantities for exploration and scientific research; and

(c) set aside fishing opportunities for non-Contracting Parties to this Agreement, if necessary.

4. The Meeting of Parties shall, subject to agreed rules, review quota allocations and fishing effort limitations of Contracting Parties and participation in fishing opportunities of non-Contracting Parties taking into account, *inter alia*, information on the implementation by Contracting and non-Contracting Parties of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

ARTICLE 7 – SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall establish a permanent Scientific Committee, which shall meet, unless the Meeting of the Parties otherwise decides, at least once a year, and preferably prior to the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) the functions of the Scientific Committee shall be:

(i) to conduct the scientific assessment of the fishery resources and the impact of fishing on the marine environment, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area, and the results of relevant scientific research;

(ii) to encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research in order to improve knowledge of the state of the fishery resources;

(iii) to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of the conservation and management measures referred to in article 6(1)(d);

(iv) to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of measures regarding the monitoring of fishing activities;

(v) to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate standards and format for fishery data collection and exchange; and

(vi) any other scientific function that the Meeting of the Parties may decide;