

DRAFT DOCUMENT CONCERNING CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN STATES IN WEATHER MODIFICATION*

Prepared by

WMO/UNEP Meeting of Experts Designated by Governments on the
Legal Aspects of Weather Modification held in Geneva, 17-21 September 1979

RECOGNIZING that the atmosphere is a natural resource of the Earth,

NOTING the possible benefits which weather modification may
hold for mankind and the environment,

DESIRING that weather modification should serve the interests of
international understanding and cooperation,

DESIRING further that the provisions set out below should be inter-
preted in such a way as to promote the improvement of weather
modification technology and its beneficial use,

RECALLING the declaration of the United Nations Conference on the
Human Environment approved at Stockholm on 16 June 1972,
inter alia, Principles Nos. 1, 2, 20 and 21,

RECALLING further the relevant decisions of the Seventh and Eighth
World Meteorological Congresses (1971, 1979) and those
of the Governing Council of UNEP,

BEARING IN MIND Resolution 31/72 of the General Assembly of the United Nations -
Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile
Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (10 December 1976),

RECOGNIZING that the application and further development of the following
provisions has to be closely related to the existing state of
scientific and technical knowledge in the field of weather
modification,

RECOMMENDS that States take into account the following:

* The term "weather modification", as used herein, means any action performed
with the intention of producing artificial changes in the properties of the
atmosphere for purposes such as increasing, decreasing or redistributing
precipitation or cloud coverage, moderating severe storms and tropical
cyclones, decreasing or suppressing hail or lightning or dissipating fog.

I

Weather modification should be dedicated to the benefit of mankind and the environment.

II

Exchange of information, notification, consultation and other forms of cooperation regarding weather modification should be carried out on the basis of good faith, in the spirit of good neighbourliness and in such a way as to avoid any unreasonable delay either in such forms or in carrying out weather modification activities.

III

States should gather and record technical and scientific information on weather modification activities. They should ensure that such information is made available to WMO which should continue to prepare and distribute appropriate reports on weather modification activities.

IV

States should, either directly or through WMO, and to the extent possible, give adequate and timely notification to all concerned States of prospective weather modification activities under their jurisdiction or control, which are likely to have an effect on areas within the national jurisdiction of such concerned States.

V

States should ensure that an assessment is made of the environmental consequences of prospective weather modification activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to have an effect on areas outside their national jurisdiction, and, either directly or through WMO, make the results of such an assessment available to all concerned States.

VI

Weather modification activities should be conducted in a manner designed to ensure that they do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

VII

A State under whose jurisdiction or control weather modification activities are planned or are taking place which are likely to have an effect on areas outside its national jurisdiction should, upon the request of a concerned State, either directly or through WMO, enter into timely consultation concerning such activities.

VIII

States should encourage and facilitate international cooperation in weather modification activities, including research, and, as may be appropriate, conclusion of bilateral, regional or multi-lateral agreements.

21 September 1979