

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
24 February to 27 April 1958

Summary Records of the 5th and 6th Plenary Meetings

Extract from the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of The Sea, Volume II (Plenary Meetings)*

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING*Tuesday, 18 March 1958, at 10.30 a.m.**President* : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand)**Note verbale addressed to the President of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/CONF.13/L.4)**

1. The PRESIDENT said that, annexed to the note verbale addressed to him by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/CONF.13/L.4), were two communications constituting formal notification of the unification of Egypt and Syria to form a single State — the United Arab Republic — and of the election of President Gamal Abdel Nasser as its president.

2. On placing the Secretary-General's communication before the Conference, he wished to welcome Mr. Omar Loutfi, leader of the delegation of the United Arab Republic, and to invite him to convey his congratulations to President Nasser.

3. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan), on behalf of the African and Asian States represented at the Conference, offered their warmest congratulations to the United Arab Republic.

4. Mr. DEAN (United States of America) said it was his government's view that, as a consequence of the voluntary union of Egypt and Syria following a plebiscite, the United Arab Republic was the successor of those States in all organs of the United Nations. He extended his government's good wishes to the new republic, and welcomed its representatives to the Conference.

5. Mr. TUNKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), after welcoming the delegation of the United Arab Republic, said that the Soviet Union Government had decided to recognize the United Arab Republic as an independent and sovereign State, and had made known its willingness to continue with that State the friendly relations it had formerly maintained with Egypt and Syria.

6. Mr. BARTOS (Yugoslavia) observed that the Yugoslav Government had extended *de jure* recognition to the United Arab Republic on the day of its creation. The Yugoslav delegation welcomed the representatives of the new Arab State to the Conference.

7. Mr. SEN (India), Mr. BHUTTO (Pakistan), Mr. GRIGOROV (Bulgaria), Mr. LAMANI (Albania), Mr. GEAMANU (Romania), Mr. KRISPIS (Greece), Mr. MATINE-DAFTARY (Iran), and Mr. LESCURE (Argentina) on behalf of the Latin-American States represented at the Conference, and Mr. SHUKAIRI (Saudi Arabia) on behalf of the Arab States, associated themselves with the welcome extended by the President to the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

8. Mr. LOUTFI (United Arab Republic) expressed his thanks for the congratulations offered to his delegation on the occasion of the establishment of the United Arab Republic. He had been deeply touched by the good wishes addressed to his country.

9. In its international relations, the United Arab Republic would be guided by the principles of the Charter,

and would collaborate with the United Nations in putting them into effect. Acting in a spirit of co-operation and conciliation, his delegation would do all in its power to ensure the success of the Conference.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING*Monday, 14 April 1958, at 3 p.m.**President* : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand)**Report by the General Committee on the progress of the work of the Conference and on the appointment of the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.13/L.9)**

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the third report of the General Committee (A/CONF.13/L.9), which contained certain recommendations concerning the organization of the work of the Conference. The General Committee recommended, in the first place, that each committee should decide as soon as possible on any recommendations it would make to the Conference regarding the kind of instrument or instruments required to embody the results of its work, and what final clauses, if any, were necessary. Secondly, the General Committee proposed that the committees should complete their work by certain given dates. Thirdly, it recommended that the closing date of the Conference should be put back from Thursday, 24 April, to Saturday, 26 April.

The recommendations of the General Committee concerning the organization of the work of the Conference were adopted.

2. The PRESIDENT announced that the General Committee had also recommended, pursuant to rule 49 of the rules of procedure, that the Conference appoint a Drafting Committee composed of nine members. The names proposed by the General Committee were : Mr. Liu (China), Mr. Zourek (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Correa (Ecuador), Mr. Gros (France), Mr. Bhutto (Pakistan), Mr. Lacleta (Spain), Mr. Tunkin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice (United Kingdom) and Mr. Dean (United States of America). Each member would, of course, have the right to nominate an alternate.

The General Committee's recommendations concerning the appointment of the Drafting Committee of the Conference were adopted.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING*Monday, 21 April 1958, at 10.15 a.m.**President* : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand)**Consideration of proposals concerning the settlement of disputes (A/CONF.13/BUR/L.3, L.5, L.6)**

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that the delegations of Colombia, the Netherlands and Switzerland, which