

# **Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea**

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-  
**A/CONF.62/SR.24**

## **Summary Records of Plenary Meetings 24<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting**

*Extract from the Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume I (Summary Records of Plenary Meetings of the First and Second Sessions, and of Meetings of the General Committee, Second Session)*

## 24th meeting

Monday, 1 July 1974, at 4.25 p.m.

*President:* Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka).

### Tribute to the memory of General Perón, President of the Argentine Republic

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Conference of the sad news of the death of President Juan Domingo Perón. He recalled that it was in 1946, as the result of a general election, that General Perón for the first time acceded to the presidency of the Argentine Republic. After having held office for nine years the vicissitudes of political life had obliged him to go abroad, and in 1973 he had been elected President for the second time by 90 per cent of the population. With his death a vigorous personality, an almost legendary figure, had passed away. He offered his condolences to General Perón's family and to the Argentine people, who he hoped would be able to fill the gap in peace and unity.

*At the invitation of the President, the representatives observed a minute of silence as a tribute to the memory of General Juan Domingo Perón, President of the Argentine Republic.*

2. Mr. GALINDO POHL (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Latin American States, said that he would like to express to the fraternal country of Argentina the sincere sorrow felt by those countries on the occasion of the death of General Perón, who for several decades had occupied the Argentine and the international scene. The Argentine people, who had felt the most warm affection for him, was in mourning and with them all the peoples of Latin America. The image of General Perón, who represented the national and popular conscience as had been expressed at the elections, was destined to grow even greater with the passing of time and his memory would live for ever, as would the Argentine Republic.

3. He asked the Argentine delegation to convey to the family of the late President and to the Argentine people and Government the condolences of Latin American countries.

4. Mr. MANNER (Finland), speaking on behalf of the group of Western European and other States, said he had been deeply distressed to learn of the death of General Perón. In him the world had lost a great statesman, a highly esteemed representative of the Latin American continent. Although he had not been able to complete his task, General Perón would not be forgotten. He offered his most sincere condolences to the Argentine delegation.

5. Mr. PINTO (Sri Lanka), speaking on behalf of the group of Asian States, said that it was with the deepest sorrow that he had learned of the death of General Perón following a short illness. Having been actively associated with politics for almost 30 years, the General had become a legend in his own lifetime. Even during his exile, the movement he had created had continued to exist. General Perón had always identified himself with the workers and peasants of Argentina, for whom he had been a symbol of strength and hope. A great man had recently passed away and the group of Asian States wished to extend its condolences to the Argentine delegation, the General's family and the Argentine Government and people.

6. Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of the group of Eastern European States, expressed his sincerest condolences to the Argentine Government and people on the death of General Perón, a great son of Argentina and an eminent statesman who had always been a supporter of the noblest aspirations of the Argentine people for social justice and independence. The socialist countries had always appreciated the contribution of his dynamism and broad political outlook to the

promotion of international co-operation and friendship among peoples, particularly between Argentina and the socialist world. The memory of General Perón would certainly continue to be one of the glories of Argentina and all Latin America.

7. Mr. CISSE (Senegal), speaking on behalf of the group of African States, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Latin American countries, especially to Argentina, on the death of General Perón. It was a cruel loss, particularly for the third world, and the African countries deeply mourned his passing. General Perón had had the interests of his country and particularly those of the working masses at heart. He had been the symbol of just and enlightened leadership and had, for the second time, been elected to the presidency by 90 per cent of the population. It was to be hoped that, under the enlightened guidance of the Vice-President, the fraternal and friendly people of Argentina would enjoy further stability and that General Perón's work would be continued.

8. Mr. ABDEL HAMID (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Arab States, said that it was with deep sorrow that he had learned of the Argentine people's tragic loss and he requested the Argentine delegation to convey the sincere condolences of the Arab peoples to the Argentine people. The whole world was aware that General Perón had been a great leader and a great fighter for freedom. The ideals to which he had devoted his life should inspire not only his own people but also the whole world, and the Conference could pay no better tribute to him than to be guided by those ideals.

9. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela), speaking as the representative of the host country, said he wished to add a few words to the stirring statement made by the representative of El Salvador on behalf of the Latin American States. The Venezuelan Government would soon pay a tribute to General Perón at the highest level but, in view of the traditional friendship between Argentina and Venezuela, anything that happened in either country also affected the other directly and he saluted the memory of General Perón. The General had been an outstanding personality, admired throughout Latin America, the champion of nationalism in the best sense of the term, a nationalism which did not preclude friendship and co-operation with Latin America and the third world. He conveyed his deepest sympathy to the late President's family and to the Argentine Government and people.

10. Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) said that the death of General Perón was a loss not just for Argentina but for all Latin America. As many bonds existed between the two countries, the sorrow of Argentina was also the sorrow of Chile.

11. Mr. HADDAD (Lebanon) associated himself with the previous speakers, especially the representative of Egypt, in expressing his deep sorrow at the cruel loss caused by the death of General Perón. Lebanon had lost a friend in that man, who had enjoyed tremendous prestige, and his delegation extended its deepest sympathy to the Argentine delegation.

12. Mr. LUPINACCI (Uruguay) emphasized the close and indissoluble links that had existed between Argentina and Uruguay since the time of their independence and expressed his great sorrow at the death of General Perón. In so doing he was not engaging in a mere formality, because America as a whole had lost a great statesman who had always striven for the integration of Latin America and had extended the frontiers of his homeland to the ends of the continent. He requested the Argentine delegation to convey his condolences to General

Perón's family and to the fraternal people and Government of Argentina.

13. Mr. MOORE (United States of America) said that he wished to associate himself, particularly as a member of the Organization of American States, with the sentiments expressed by the Latin American delegations. He extended his sincere condolences to the representative of Argentina and through him to the late President's family and the Argentine people.

14. Mr. DE ABAROA Y GOÑI (Spain) associated himself with the tributes paid to General Perón. Spain had known and loved General Perón, who had spent a great deal of time there, and had had the opportunity to appreciate his human qualities. It had lost in him a sincere friend and the whole Spanish people extended its condolences to the people of Argentina.

15. The PRESIDENT requested the Argentine delegation to convey the condolences expressed by all the delegations.

16. Mr. LISTRE (Argentina) said that, being overcome by emotion, he would say only a few words. To be loved by one's people was the highest goal to which a leader could aspire. That had been the case with General Perón, who had been deeply loved not only by the Argentine people but by others,

and especially the peoples of Latin America and the third world. Almost three decades earlier General Perón had expounded the doctrine of the third position, which had helped to sow the seeds of the third world movement.

17. General Perón had been profoundly Argentine, profoundly Latin American and profoundly universal. The Argentine delegation had had occasion at the previous meeting to describe some of the ways in which he had visualized the progress of the world towards justice and liberty. As had been pointed out by Her Excellency Doña María Estela Martínez de Perón, the President of the Argentine Republic, who had assumed office in accordance with the Constitution and the will of millions of her fellow citizens, "the President of the Argentine people provided his country and the Latin American continent with the most outstanding example of greatness and Christian humanism. He sacrificed his life to the cause of the peace and freedom of peoples and worked to the very end for national, continental and universal unity."

18. He thanked delegations for their expressions of sympathy.

*In tribute to the memory of General Perón, the meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.*

## 25th meeting

Tuesday, 2 July 1974, at 10.15 a.m.

*President: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka).*

### General statements (continued) \*

1. Mr. MOLDT (German Democratic Republic) said that, in the current atmosphere of international détente, the Conference should be able to agree on generally acceptable rules for the law of the sea, based on the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil Thereof, beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction adopted by the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

2. In view of the universal importance of the Conference, he regretted that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to participate. As a participant in the Paris Peace Conference and as a State which maintained diplomatic relations with many countries, it had a legitimate right to participate in the Conference. In connexion with the question of universality of representation, he expressed support for the principle that liberation movements should be invited to participate in the work of the Conference.

3. The principle of the freedom of the seas should be the basis of the international law of the sea. That principle included the right of all States to free navigation and other legitimate uses of the high seas on the basis of sovereign equality, the principle of co-operation between all States in the conservation, exploitation and equitable distribution of the mineral resources of the sea which were the common heritage of mankind, and the principle of the conservation of the marine environment and increased co-operation in maritime research. All questions relating to the law of the sea were interrelated and should be approached as a whole.

4. Determining the breadth and legal régime of the territorial sea, which was one of the central issues facing the Conference,

meant determining State frontiers. His delegation supported a 12-mile limit for the territorial sea, in accordance with current legal concepts and the practice of the vast majority of States. The breadth of the territorial sea should be clearly defined by the Conference.

5. The principle of free passage through straits used for international navigation and linking the high seas should be affirmed by the Conference in a convention. The security interests of coastal States should, of course, also be taken into account. As a result of the increase in traffic through straits, their importance, particularly their political importance, had increased recently, and free transit through and free overflight over such straits were essential for communication and peaceful co-operation between States. In that connexion he expressed support for the norms proposed by the Soviet Union for the protection of the interests of all States, particularly States bordering international straits, submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction on 25 July 1972.<sup>2</sup>

6. His delegation was sympathetic to the wish of the developing countries to exploit the living and mineral resources of the sea in economic zones in the high seas. A balanced solution to the problem should be found which would take account of the legitimate interests of all States. Although his country had only a short coastline, his people had a traditionally high rate of fish consumption, and the legal régime for the utilization and conservation of living resources in economic zones was of vital importance to his country. The coastal States should exercise their rights in the economic zones, which should have a maximum breadth of 200 nautical miles, in accordance with provisions established under international law and with regard to the interest of all mankind in the rational utilization of the

\* Resumed from the 23rd meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 2749 (XXV).

<sup>2</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 and corrigendum, annex III, sect. 5.