

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/BUR/SR.51

51st meeting of the General Committee

Extract from the *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume XIII (Summary Records, Plenary, General Committee, First and Third Committees, as well as Documents of the Conference, Ninth Session)*

GENERAL COMMITTEE

51st meeting

Wednesday, 5 March 1980, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE

Application of General Assembly resolution 34/92

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in his capacity as President of the Conference, he had received a letter from the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia citing General Assembly resolution 34/92 C, by which, *inter alia*, the Assembly had decided to grant full membership in the Conference to Namibia, represented by the Council for Namibia as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory. The President of the Council requested that the sign "NAMIBIA" should be placed amongst the signs of Member States in alphabetical order at the ninth session of the Conference.

2. In order to give effect to the General Assembly's resolution and to comply with the request of the President of the Council, it would be necessary to delete rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the Conference and to place on record that Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory, should participate in the Conference in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse that course of action.

It was so decided.

3. Mr. RICHARDSON (United States of America), speaking

on behalf of the delegations of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, said that the views of the Governments of those countries with respect to Namibia were well known. He simply wished to reaffirm that they maintained the reservations expressed on their behalf on 12 December 1979 in explanation of their votes on resolution 34/92 C.¹ If the question before the Committee had been brought to a vote, the five delegations for which he spoke would have abstained.

4. Mr. SEMICHI (Algeria), speaking on behalf of his delegation and of the United Nations Council for Namibia, thanked the Committee for its historic decision to recognize the Council's right to participate in conferences held under United Nations auspices. Since the United Nations had direct responsibility for Namibia, it was appropriate that the Committee should acknowledge the Council's right to representation at the Conference.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 100th meeting.

52nd meeting

Monday, 24 March 1980, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, from the consultations he had held with the Chairmen of the committees, the Drafting Committee, the negotiating groups and the groups of legal experts, it had become clear that a minor modification would be necessary in the programme of work for the second stage described in paragraph 10 of document A/CONF.62/88.¹ In that connexion, the secretariat was making an effort to obtain the necessary conference facilities; since they would be limited it was important that the secretariat should receive prior warning of any proposed changes.

2. He suggested that the General Committee should recommend to the plenary conference the extension of the work of the first stage until 25 March, thereby allowing the Secretariat more time for the translation and circulation of the reports of

the various committees and groups in all official languages. Those reports should be in the hands of the secretariat as soon as they were ready, and certainly not later than 9 p.m. on 25 March. In his opinion, the formal discussions in the second stage should be confined to matters concerned with the second revision of the negotiating text (A/CONF.62/WP.10/Rev.1). The procedure for the formal discussions would be as set out in paragraph 10 of document A/CONF.62/88, except that they would commence on 27 March instead of at the beginning of the fourth week.

3. As mentioned in paragraph 4 of his note (A/CONF.62/L.46), delegations should refrain from reopening issues which had already been discussed at length but had not found sufficiently wide acceptance to appear in the precise form in which they had originally been presented to merit inclusion in the negotiating text. He earnestly requested delegations to concentrate on the most urgent tasks and thereby assist the collegium in preparing the second revision of the text. Future opportunities would be provided to discuss the constituent elements of the package and delegations could, of course,

¹ See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XIII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 80. V. 12).