

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

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-  
**A/CONF.62/31**

## **Report of the General Committee**

Extract from the *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume III (Documents of the Conference, First and Second Sessions)*

*Note:* The agreement reached in the sea-bed Committee on 27 August 1971 on the organization of its work read as follows:

"While each sub-committee will have the right to discuss and record its conclusions on the question of limits so far as it is relevant to the subjects allocated to it, the main Committee will not reach a decision on the final recommendation with regard to limits until the recommendations of Sub-

Committee II on the precise definition of the area have been received, which should constitute basic proposals for the consideration of the main Committee."

It is therefore recommended that the same understanding should be carried forward in respect of the Main Committees of the Conference, preliminary to the adoption of the pertinent final provisions by the Conference.

## DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/31

### Report of the General Committee

[Original: English]  
[12 July 1974]

I. At its second meeting on 12 July the General Committee decided to recommend to the Conference to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Conference in accordance with rule 65 by adding two new rules as suggested below:

#### I

To be inserted after rule 40, as follows:

"*Meaning of the term 'States participating'*

"Subject to the provisions of rules 1 to 5 and without prejudice to the powers and functions of the Credentials Committee, the term 'States participating' in relation to any particular session of the Conference means any State whose representatives have registered with the Secretariat of the Conference as participating in that session and which has not subsequently notified the Secretariat of its withdrawal from

that session or a part of it. The Secretariat shall keep a Register for this purpose."

#### II

To be inserted after rule 62, as follows:

"*Observers for national liberation movements*

"1. National liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity or by the League of Arab States may designate representatives to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committees and, as appropriate, the subsidiary organs.

"2. Written statements of such observers shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations at the Conference."

2. The Rules of Procedure of the Conference should be renumbered accordingly.

## DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/32

Statement made by Mr. G. D. Arsenis on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at the 42nd meeting, held on 15 July 1974\*

[Original: English]  
[15 July 1974]

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD greatly regrets his inability to be here. Pressing commitments have obliged him to stay in Geneva and he has asked me to convey to you some views that he would have expressed, had he been here.

This Conference encompasses issues of great importance, and of considerable complexity—such as the territorial sea, the economic zone, passage through straits, the régime of islands, the definition of the International Area, fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the high seas, the preservation of the marine environment and so on. I should like, however, to confine my remarks to another issue of equal importance which is also before the Conference, namely, the exploitation of the mineral resources of the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction—an issue that has been the subject of intergovernmental discussions and secretariat studies within UNCTAD.

Mr. President, it is now generally agreed that the greater availabilities and presumed lower costs associated with the production of minerals from the sea-bed would bring benefits to the world as a whole. The central question that arises in this connexion is: how would these benefits be distributed among the member States?

The General Assembly recognized that these new resources are the "common heritage of mankind" and that they are available for exploitation by or on behalf of the international community "for the benefit of mankind as a whole, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries". The task before the Conference is to render this broad conceptual framework operational by establishing practical arrangements for the exploitation of the sea-bed resources. In accomplishing this task, the Conference will, no doubt, wish to take into account developments in interrelated areas.

For some time now, the world community has recognized the need for concerted international action to underpin the development of developing countries, and to reduce the economic gap between developed and developing countries. The United Nations Development Decade is a clear reflection of the resolution of the international community to accord to the question of development a priority second to none. It would be logical, therefore, to expect that the exploitation of sea-bed resources beyond national jurisdiction would be organized in a manner that would ensure maximum income benefit for developing countries and effective participation, on a preferential basis, by these countries in the production, processing and marketing of the produce.

Another fundamental preoccupation of our times that has direct relevance to the issue before the Conference is of some-

\*Circulated in accordance with the decision taken by the Conference at its 42nd meeting.