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Organization of the work of the Second Committee: statement by the Chairman at the 1st meeting

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)*

DOCUMENTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/C.2/L.2

Organization of the work of the Second Committee: statement by the Chairman at the 1st meeting

[Original: Spanish]
[3 July 1974]

I have held consultations with the officers of this Committee, the Chairmen of the regional groups and some individual delegations and, as a result of these consultations, it is my understanding that in general there appears to be agreement on the following points bearing on the organization of the Committee's work:

1. The Committee should start by dealing with substantive questions next week towards the end of the general debate in the plenary Conference;

2. The items allocated to the Committee should be taken up in official and non-official meetings, as considered convenient, with the Chairman of the Committee presiding. Working groups should not be established, at least at the initial stage, on the understanding that, if necessary, one or more informal *ad hoc* groups may be established;

3. The items allocated to the Committee should be considered one by one in the order in which they appear in the list contained in document A/CONF.62/29. The idea is to consider each of these items and questions and then to identify the main trends and to express these trends in generally acceptable formulae, in other words, to "put the item on ice", without

taking decisions, and to pass on to the following item. It is clearly understood that, during the discussion of each item, delegations may refer to related items. No decision will be taken until all the closely interconnected items have been fully considered;

4. At present it does not seem possible to draw up a time-table of work. At most, such a time-table could be prepared only tentatively and the officers are currently working on this. The officers of the Committee could be given the responsibility of periodically reviewing the progress of the work in the light of the time available. Depending on the progress of the work and having regard to the time factor, special measures could be taken to expedite the work when it is thought that the Committee is falling behind;

5. The Committee should not take a formal decision on the documentation which will serve as a basis for its work. All the available documents—the documents of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, and any others that may have been submitted officially or informally, or which may be submitted during this session—may be used.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/C.2/L.3

United Kingdom: draft articles on the territorial sea and straits

[Original: English]
[3 July 1974]

CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

The States parties to this Convention

Desiring to develop the law of the sea in order to meet present and future needs of the entire world community;

Have agreed as follows:

(Chapter I: International régime for the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction)

CHAPTER II. TERRITORIAL SEA

PART I. NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS

Article 1

1. The sovereignty of a State extends beyond its land territory and its internal waters to a belt of sea adjacent to its coast described as the territorial sea.

2. The sovereignty of a coastal State extends also to the air space over the territorial sea as well as to the bed and subsoil thereof.

3. The coastal State exercises this sovereignty subject to the provisions of this Convention and to other rules of international law.

PART II. LIMITS OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA

Article 2

The territorial sea may not extend beyond 12 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

Note: Add here the text of articles 3 to 13 of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone.¹

¹United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 516, p. 206.