

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

1973-1982

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9th Meeting of the General Committee

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

9th meeting

Tuesday, 1 April 1975, at 9.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka).

Progress of work: reports by the Chairmen of the Committees

1. Mr. ENGO (United Republic of Cameroon), Chairman of the First Committee, said it was still too early to make substantive statements on the progress achieved, and informed the General Committee that the activities of the Working Group and the consultations had continued. The members of the First Committee were showing a spirit of co-operation, but it was difficult to say precisely how far the Committee had advanced in its work.

2. Mr. GALINDO POHL (El Salvador), Chairman of the Second Committee, said that the Committee had continued its work in accordance with the time-table it had set itself. It was still too early to report on results, but work was going forward in a favourable atmosphere. The Committee had nearly completed the first stage of its work and would shortly be entering on the second stage. It was devoting its time to informal meetings and consultations, and trying to avoid duplication. It would very soon have to decide what the second stage of its work would be.

3. The CHAIRMAN, in the absence of the Chairman of the Third Committee, called on the representative of Colombia.

4. Mr. ZEA (Colombia) said that unfortunately the member of the Colombian delegation who represented that country in the Third Committee was not present and that consequently he himself was not in a position to give a detailed report on the work done that would provide clear guidance for the Chairman and the General Committee.

5. Mr. KNOKE (Federal Republic of Germany) said he was in the same position as the representative of Colombia. He could say, however, that a new proposal concerning item 12 had been submitted to the Third Committee, and that in his view the working groups dealing with items 13 (Scientific research) and 14 (Development and transfer of technology) had made some progress; but that was merely a subjective impression.

6. The CHAIRMAN informed the General Committee that he intended to meet the chairmen of the various informal working groups in order to obtain the latest information on the organization of work and the progress made.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.

10th meeting

Monday, 7 April 1975, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H.S. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka).

Progress of work: reports by the Chairmen of the Committees

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Chairmen of the three Committees had informed him of the progress of their work, which might be summarized as follows.

2. The Chairman of the Second Committee had reported that his Committee had completed its second reading of the working paper on main trends¹ the previous week and would begin immediately to set up small working groups to study specific subjects. Meetings of the full Committee would be convened formally or informally, as circumstances dictated. So far three working groups had been set up, one dealing with baselines, one with historic bays and the third with access to the sea. The Committee hoped soon to reach agreement on a single text relating to baselines. On the other hand, there was as yet no prospect of a final conclusion on historic bays. The Chairman of the Committee had reported that the working group on access to the sea consisted of eight transit States chosen by him and five land-locked States; he intended to set up three other

working groups to study innocent passage in the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the high seas. He had added that delegations had not yet held consultations on questions relating to the economic zone and the continental shelf.

3. The Chairman of the First Committee had had nothing specific to report and had stated merely that the working group of the First Committee was continuing its work.

4. The Chairman of the Third Committee had stated that it had set up two groups of the whole to consider items 12, 13 and 14 of the agenda.

5. He said that the Rapporteur-General had asked whether machinery should not be established as soon as possible within the Conference for the conduct of negotiations on critical issues. The Chairman of the Second Committee had said that he was trying to establish such a group, and that the Eastern European States had already nominated four representatives to it. The Chairman of the Third Committee had said that care must be taken to ensure that the proposed group was as representative as possible, without thereby becoming less effective. He himself fully shared that view; he thought it would be impossible to negotiate effectively in a 140-member group. In his view, the ideal number would be about 50.

¹ See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. III (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.V.5), document A/CONF.62/L.8/Rev.1, annex II, appendix I.