

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/L.10

**Letter dated 18 April 1975 addressed to the President of the Conference from the observer
of Surinam**

*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)*

DOCUMENTS A/CONF.62/L.2/ADD.2 AND 3

List of interested Non-Governmental Organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

[Original: English, French and Spanish]
[17 March and 17 April 1975]

1. Under paragraph 8 of resolution 3067 (XXVIII), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite to the Conference non-governmental organizations in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 3029 A (XXVII), which reads as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General, subject to approval by the Conference, to invite interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to send observers to the Conference."

2. Further to lists issued in document A/CONF.62/L.2 and Add.1,³⁰ the following non-governmental organiza-

³⁰ 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).

tions having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council have expressed the desire to be included in the list presented to the Conference for approval:

Category I

International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Category II

Bahá'í International Community

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

International Commission of Jurists

International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples

World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.10

Letter dated 18 April 1975 addressed to the President of the Conference from the observer of Surinam

[Original: English]
[22 April 1975]

As representative of my country which has the position of an observer State, invited in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3334 (XXIX), it is a pleasure to recall what you, Mr. President, said in your address at the 1st meeting of the Conference on Monday, 3 December 1973.³¹ You said that the Conference was destined to be one of the most important in history and, in terms of the number of participating States, perhaps the largest ever held. Many other distinguished delegates thereafter emphasized the historic significance of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in the evolution of the United Nations.

These facts underline why my country, Surinam, is so grateful to be able to attend the Conference this time in its own right, now as an observer and at the end of this year—*Deo Volente*—as an independent State. My delegation, on behalf of the Surinam People and the Surinam Government, wishes to thank the United Nations Assembly in general and you, Mr. President, for the granting of observer status to Surinam and other territories in a similar position.

My country, now in transition to independence, is fully aware of the great responsibility and difficult task this Conference has taken upon itself, especially in view of the fact that the forthcoming legal order of the sea will also foster better relations between the highly developed countries on the one hand, and the developing countries on the

other. Surinam belongs to the latter group of States and shares their day-by-day struggle for economic and social well-being. Surinam, as part of Latin America and also of the Caribbean, is now at last to become an independent State, to be exact at the end of November 1975.

It took a second world war before the 77, most of them former colonies, could gain full independence. The number of States which have gained independence since the Second World War is larger but the group of States well-known by this number (77), means much to the people of Surinam.

Surinam is a coastal State on the north coast of South America, a green and very fertile land with a small population and a territory of 160,000 square kilometres. My Government, on behalf of the people of our country, fully subscribes to the views laid down in the often mentioned Declaration of Santo Domingo,³² especially in its purport to establish two zones in ocean space: one under the jurisdiction of coastal States, extending not more than 200 nautical miles seawards, and another subject to the authority of the international community. The first zone embodies the concept of the patrimonial sea, accepted by the majority of States. This vision will suit the world and make true the adage "*suum cuique tribuere*".

Surinam also will profit, taking into account that the patrimonial sea will equal approximately 45 per cent of Surinam's land. Surinam will also profit in regard to living

³¹ *Ibid.*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.V.3).

³² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 and corrigendum*, annex I, sect. 2.

and non-living natural resources, for example our fish and, as recent explorations have indicated, oil and other mineral resources.

As participants in the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, members of the delegation from Surinam took part in the various sessions of the Conference without being able to speak specifically for Surinam, but we followed the progress of work with great interest. We noticed your personal efforts and had high esteem for the effort of the distinguished representatives to bring the Conference to a successful end.

But we are not yet at the end of the sessions. At this stage my delegation is only able to issue this statement as one of so many other documents of the Conference.

Nevertheless, allow me to mention briefly some problems of my own country, especially where the sea is concerned. Up to this month, also due to our "autonomous" political status, balancing between independence (home affairs) and dependency (in foreign affairs), Surinam has no guarantee that the problems just mentioned will be solved before the day of independence at the end of November this year.

Inspired by the efforts made to secure a successful outcome of the Conference and an international agreement acceptable to the overwhelming majority of the nations of the world, we are strengthened and motivated to live and act in accordance with the goals and aims of the Conference, notwithstanding little disputes about the delimitation of our historic territorial rights.

We do hope that the new law of the sea will succeed in establishing a workable and compulsory peaceful settlement

of disputes in *ad hoc* international courts and courts of appeal, in a sense as put forward by the representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the statement read by Mr. Riphagen at the 34th meeting on 9 July 1974.³¹ Then every attempt at provocation in these matters can be handled legally.

I am glad to inform you of the intention of my Government to give priority to a possible agreement with the Republic of France concerning our distinguished neighbours on the Eastern border of Surinam, an agreement that will settle once and for all boundary disputes along the Marowijne river, in its origin and in the continental shelf. If we succeed in this – hopefully at the end of this year – the French Government and its Departement d'Outre Mer (commonly called Guyane Française, better known as Cayenne), together with Surinam, will have achieved a solution to a centuries-old delimitation dispute, a solution, which I do hope will suit all the three parties concerned.

The sea, always in motion, is, of all the things made by the hand or the will of the Creator, the largest, and an everlasting phenomenon on this, our planet. That is also, in the view of my delegation, the reason why this important Conference has embarked upon a new convention on the law of the sea, for the benefit of and equilibrium between all nations, big or small, rich or poor, coastal or landlocked.

May the Conference succeed, so that some of the goals of the United Nations may be realized, for example, the establishment of conditions (where the sea is concerned) under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained and the reaffirmation of faith in the equal rights of nations, large and small.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/WP.8

Informal single negotiating text

[Original: English]
[7 May 1975]

Note by the President of the Conference

At its 55th plenary meeting on Friday 18 April 1975 the Conference decided to request the Chairman of its three Main Committees each to prepare a single negotiating text covering the subjects entrusted to his Committee. In his concluding statement, before the Conference made this request, the President stressed that the single text should take account of all the formal and informal discussions held so far, would be informal in character and would not prejudice the position of any delegation nor would it represent any negotiated text or accepted compromise. It should, therefore, be quite clear that the single negotiating text will serve as a procedural device and only provide a basis for negotiation. It must not in any way be regarded as affecting either the status of proposals already made by delegations or the right of delegations to submit amendments or new proposals.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/WP.8/PART I (Text presented by the Chairman of the First Committee.)

Part I: Interpretation

Article I

For the purposes of this Convention

- (i) "States Parties" to this Convention means Contracting Parties.
- (ii) "Activities in the Area" means all activities of exploration of the Area and of the exploitation of its resources, as well as other associated activities in the Area including scientific research.
- (iii) "Resources" means resources *in situ*.