

# **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/C.1/WR.4**

## **Weekly report by the Co-Chairmen on the activities of the workshop**

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

7. Several delegations supported the approach embodied in workshop paper No. 1, while some others supported workshop paper No. 3.

8. The question was then considered as to how to proceed further in productive negotiations. On 26 August it was decided that a more informal and smaller forum for negotiations should be established. This negotiating group, which consisted of 26 members, was composed as follows: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, USSR, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia. It was clarified that the coordinators for various groups, who were not included in the above list, might also participate in the negotiating group like

other members. Other delegations might also participate in discussions in the group. The negotiating group was an *ad hoc* group. Its composition did not constitute a precedent for any other purpose. It was given the task of negotiating the system of exploitation, in particular articles 22 and 23 and the related provisions of annex I, and producing such results as could command a consensus in the workshop. Informality would be maintained to enable the group to produce these results. It was to be chaired by the two Co-Chairmen of the workshop in the same way as the workshop itself. The Co-Chairmen would report regularly to the workshop on the results in the negotiating group after every four meetings, although flexibility would be maintained.

9. Four meetings of the negotiating group were held during the week on the subject-matter allocated to it.

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/C.1/WR.4

#### Weekly report by the Co-Chairmen on the activities of the workshop

[Original: English]  
[3 September 1976]

1. The workshop held one meeting on 2 September during the period 30 August to 3 September, the rest of the week being devoted to seven meetings of the negotiating group on the system of exploitation of the international sea-bed area.

2. Discussions in the negotiating group concentrated on article 22 of part I of the revised single negotiating text<sup>65</sup> and related paragraphs 7 and 8 of annex I, with particular attention to proposals contained in workshop paper No. 1. The Co-Chairmen, at the request of the group, prepared a paper listing two sets of points which the Authority will consider in respect of entering into negotiations with an applicant and entering into a contract with it. This paper was prepared on the basis of the ideas contained in the workshop papers and the suggestions made in meetings of the group.

<sup>65</sup>*ibid.*

3. The Co-Chairmen made an oral report to the workshop meeting on the work done in the negotiating group at its last five meetings.

4. At the meeting of the workshop, one delegation made certain suggestions concerning article 22 as contained in workshop paper No. 1, with a view to helping establish a middle ground between the methodologies set forth in the three workshop papers.

5. It was pointed out, during the meeting of the workshop, that there was only a limited period of time available before the end of the session and that it would be desirable at least to initiate discussion on another item, for example, the Assembly and the Council of the Authority. It was agreed to start discussion on this item about the middle of the next week (8 September), keeping in mind the need to allow time to the negotiating group on the system of exploitation to make progress in its work.

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/C.1/WR.5 AND ADD.1

#### Final report by the Co-Chairmen on the activities of the workshop

[Original: English]  
[9 September 1976]

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/C.1/WR.5\*

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. At its 26th meeting on 5 August 1976, the First Committee decided to establish a workshop in order to conduct its work in an informal setting. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Jagota (India) and Mr. Sondaal (Netherlands). It held 13 meetings from 9 August to 8 September. The Co-Chairmen prepared joint weekly reports on the workshop for submission to the Committee (A/CONF.62/C.1/WR.1 to 4).

2. The workshop commenced its discussion with the system of exploitation of the international sea-bed area, par-

ticularly article 22 of part II of the revised single negotiating text,<sup>66</sup> and the related paragraphs in annex I on the basic conditions of prospecting, exploration and exploitation.

3. At its meetings on 18 and 19 August, three papers on the system of exploitation were presented and distributed as workshop papers Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Workshop paper No. 1 contained texts on articles 22 and 23 and on paragraphs 2, 7 and 8 (new 8 (a), and 8 *bis*) of annex I. Workshop paper No. 2 contained texts on article 22; workshop paper No. 3 contained texts on articles 22 and 23, and related paragraphs 2 and 5 to 9 of annex I. In the subsequent discussions, not all of the

\*Incorporating document A/CONF.62/C.1/WR.5/Corr.1 of 16 September 1976.

<sup>66</sup>*ibid.*