

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-

A/CONF.62/63

Organization of work

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

DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/60

Provisional agenda of the seventh session of the Conference

[Original: English]

[22 March 1978]

1. Opening of the session by the President of the Conference
2. Minute of silence for prayer or meditation
3. Adoption of the agenda for the session
4. Organization of negotiations during the seventh session
5. Consideration of the subject-matter referred to in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXVIII) of 16 November 1973
6. Adoption of a convention dealing with all matters relating to the law of the sea, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXVIII) of 16 November 1973, and of the final act of the Conference
7. Signature of the convention and the final act (at Caracas)

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/63

Organization of work

[Original: English]

[18 April 1978]

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference at its 90th plenary meeting on the report of the General Committee (A/CONF.62/61) and appearing in document A/CONF.62/62 dated 13 April 1978, the following negotiating groups have been established in consultation with the Chairman of the First Committee, the Chairman of the Second Committee, the Chairmen of the groups of African States, Asian States, Arab States, Latin American States, Eastern European States and Western European and Other States, the Chairman of the group of coastal States, the Chairman of the group of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged States and the representative of the United States of America:

Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia.

(e) *To represent the group of Western European and other States:* Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(f) *United States of America.*

Total membership: 50.

Mr. Frank Njenga was appointed Chairman of that negotiating group.

I. NEGOTIATING GROUP ON ITEM (1)

(System of exploration and exploitation and resource policy, taking note of the work of the informal group of technical experts invited to consider the technical problems associated with any formula that might be used to limit production of minerals from the area)

(a) *To represent the group of African States:* Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia.

(b) *To represent the group of Asian States:* China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore and Viet Nam.

(c) *To represent the group of Latin American States:* Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

(d) *To represent the group of Eastern European States:*

II. NEGOTIATING GROUP ON ITEM (4)

(Right of access of land-locked States and certain developing coastal States in a subregion or region to the living resources of the exclusive economic zone)

(Right of access of land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States to the living resources of the economic zone)

(a) *To represent the group of coastal States:* Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Iceland, India, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Spain, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

(b) *To represent the group of land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States:* Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Poland, Singapore, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Upper Volta and Zaire.

(c) *Five neutral countries:* China, Denmark, Romania,

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Republic of Cameroon.

Total membership: 39.

Mr. Satya Nandan was appointed Chairman of that negotiating group.

III. NEGOTIATING GROUP ON ITEM (5)

The question of the settlement of disputes relating to the exercise of the sovereign rights of coastal States in the exclusive economic zone

(a) *To represent the group of African States:* Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Swaziland and Zambia.

(b) *To represent the group of Asian States:* China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Oman, Pakistan and Singapore.

(c) *To represent the group of Latin American States:* Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica and Mexico.

(d) *To represent the group of Eastern European States:* Bulgaria, Hungary, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia.

(e) *To represent the group of Western European and other States:* Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

(f) *United States of America.*

Total membership: 36.

Mr. Constantine Stavropolous was appointed Chairman of that negotiating group.

It was understood that the allocation of seats between the different regional groups did not follow the established pattern of regional representation and was to be regarded as exceptional because of the subject-matter of the issue involved.

IV. NEGOTIATING GROUP ON ITEM (7)

(Delimitation of maritime boundaries between adjacent and opposite States and settlement of disputes thereon)

It was decided that as the problems relating to this issue were essentially of a bilateral nature, the decision to establish a nucleus should not apply to this negotiating group, but that all countries which had a special interest in the subject should be free to inform the Chairman of the group of their desire to participate in the work of the group.

Mr. E.J. Manner was appointed Chairman of that negotiating group.

It was understood that the countries referred to above would form the nucleus of the negotiating group in question but that every negotiating group would be open-ended in the sense that any State participating in the Conference and not included in the original nucleus would be free to join in negotiating groups with the same status as the original members.

These decisions were endorsed by the Conference at its 92nd plenary meeting held on 18 April 1978.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/64

Letter dated 3 May 1978 from the representative of New Zealand to the President of the Conference

[Original: English]
[3 May 1978]

I have the honour to recall that on 6 May 1976 the delegations of Fiji, New Zealand, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and Samoa, wrote to you in the following terms:

"In the course of the present session of the Conference, a number of countries and territories of the Pacific region, on whose behalf this letter is signed, have consulted together about the scope of the final clauses of the convention.

"You will recall that in Caracas the Conference recognized that certain territories, while not yet independent, had such a substantial measure of self-government as to entitle them to separate representation as observers at the Conference. In paragraph 3 of resolution 3334 (XXIX), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite certain named territories to participate as observers in any future session of the Conference. Subsequently, there was a further recognition of the special status of territories named in paragraph 3 of resolution 3334 (XXIX) in article 13 of part IV of the single negotiating text issued to the Conference by the President (A/CONF.62/WP.9).

"Access to dispute settlement procedures as contemplated by article 13 of part IV of the single negotiating text would be of considerable benefit to these territories. It will not, however, be possible to secure full protection for the

rights accorded them by the new convention, including the rights referred to in article 136 of Part II of the single negotiating text (A/CONF.62/WP.8/Part II¹), unless they are accorded the status of contracting parties. Likewise, there cannot be full assurance that the obligations of the new convention will be adequately met by these territories without such status.

"There are, of course, precedents for the adherence to international agreements of territories which have not achieved full statehood.

"Two of the territories named in paragraph 3 of resolution 3334 (XXIX)—Papua New Guinea and Suriname—have now become independent and will be able to adhere to the convention as Member States of the United Nations. The delegations who have signed this letter intend at the appropriate time to propose that the final clauses of the convention make provision for adherence to the convention by the remaining territories listed in paragraph 3 of resolution 3334 (XXIX).

"It may be—especially in the light of the suggestion that you made in the General Committee this afternoon—that this issue will be addressed in the relatively near future. Because of the importance it has for territories in the Pacific region, we have thought it desirable to give you advance notice of our intentions.

¹See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. V (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.V.8).

²*Ibid.*, vol. IV (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.V.10).