

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

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Report of the General Committee at the close of the seventh session

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)*

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Report of the General Committee
at the close of the seventh session*

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The General Committee at its 43rd and 44th meetings held on Thursday, 14 September 1978, decided to make the following recommendations to the Plenary:

1. That the next session of the Conference, which would be the eighth session, be held for a period of six weeks beginning 19 March 1979 in Geneva.
2. Its objective should be the conclusion of informal negotiations and revision of the Informal Composite Negotiating Text.
3. The question of the formalization of the Revised Informal Negotiating Text will also be considered before the end of that session.
4. The General Committee also recommends to the Plenary that the Conference be empowered to decide at the end of its eighth session to hold further meetings in 1979 under arrangements to be determined in consultation with the Secretary-General, should the Conference feel at that stage that a decision to that effect would enable it to advance its work.
5. The Negotiating Groups established by the Conference at its seventh session and **referred to** in document A/CONF.62/62 should resume their work at the very outset of the eighth session. The General Committee also recommends that special emphasis be given to matters before the First Committee during the first three weeks of the session, without excluding issues before other Negotiating Groups.
6. The procedure adopted by the Conference as recorded in document A/CONF.62/62 for the conclusion of its informal work and the revision of the Informal Composite Negotiating Text clearly indicated that the aim of the Conference should be to achieve the necessary degree of agreement on the hard core issues so that formulations emerging from those negotiations might offer a better prospect of achieving consensus.

***/** Adopted by the Conference at its 108th plenary meeting on 15 September 1978.

7. The Conference should therefore aim at finishing the negotiating steps described in document A/CONF.62/62 so as to enable the three Main Committees and the Plenary to decide on what basis the Informal Composite Negotiating Text can be revised before the end of the eighth session.

8. As all the questions are necessarily interrelated, the Chairmen of the different Negotiating Groups will have to consult the President, the Chairmen of the Main Committees as well as their own membership on the question of how best to ensure progress on issues whose solution may be linked with the solution of other interrelated questions.