

# **Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea**

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## **Draft text of preamble proposed by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77**

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[Original: English]

[13 October 1978]

## PREAMBLE

*The States Parties to the present Convention,*

*Bearing in mind* the importance of the peaceful and orderly uses of the seas and the oceans, of their protection, and of the preservation and rational utilization of their resources in the interest of mankind as a whole and for the benefit of future generations,

*Recognizing* the desirability of adopting a universal convention on the use of ocean space, having in mind the relevant developments in various fields since the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea,

*Bearing further in mind* the need to lay down just and equitable conditions for the exploitation of the resources of the sea with a view to establishing a new international economic order in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and safeguarding the special interests and needs of the developing countries,

*Considering* that the General Assembly of the United Nations, by its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, adopted the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil Thereof, beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the common heritage of mankind and of its utilization for the benefit of mankind as a whole, as contained in the aforementioned Declaration, and the special interests and needs of the developing countries in the exploitation of the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

*Believing* that the codification and progressive development of the law of the sea achieved in the present Convention will contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, and to rapprochement and friendship among all States and peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter,

*Taking into account* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

*Affirming* that other generally acceptable rules of international law not incompatible with the present Convention continue to govern matters not expressly regulated by the provisions of the present Convention,