

# **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/WS/33**

## **Statement by the delegation of Israel dated 15 September 1982**

Extract from the *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume XVII (Plenary Meetings, Summary Records and Verbatim Records, as well as Documents of the Conference, Resumed Eleventh Session and Final Part Eleventh Session and Conclusion)*

The delegation of Colombia repeats the substance of its statements made at the 165th and 172nd plenary meetings, on 1 and 16 April and its belief that the adoption of the United

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea constitutes a historic act of paramount importance and strengthens the role which the United Nations should rightfully play in the world.

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/WS/33\*

#### Statement by the delegation of Israel dated 15 September 1982

[Original: English]  
[17 September 1982]

In accordance with the reservation contained in the statement of the delegation of Israel at the 182nd plenary meeting of the Conference on 30 April 1982, the following additional written statement is submitted.

In our statement at the 163rd plenary meeting, on 31 March 1982, the only one we made in the series of short general statements that were made during the ninth and tenth sessions, we indicated some of our major objections to and preoccupations with the draft convention and the additional documents which were then before the Conference, and we indicated further objections in our statement at the 177th plenary meeting, on 2 April 1982. Subsequent developments have done nothing to dispel our preoccupations or our objections, and reference is made specifically to what we said regarding the maintenance of the freedom of the seas in respect of navigation and overflight and as regards straits. The inclusion since of the amendments contained in document A/CONF.62/L.101 has even strengthened our belief that the Conference has gone too far in introducing alien elements that have nothing to do with the law of the sea. This refers particularly to the amendments that have been made in that respect in articles 140, 156, 160, 161, 162 and 319 in so far as they purport to go beyond the law of the sea and are related to the topic of the amendments contained in document A/CONF.62/L.101.

To be brief, we cannot support the provisions to which our statement of 31 March last referred directly or indirectly or by

\*Incorporating document A/CONF.62/WS/33/Corr.1, of 12 January 1983.

incorporation. In addition, in connection with articles 19, 21 and 25, we have taken careful note of the President's statement at the opening of the 176th plenary meeting on 26 April 1982, when certain amendments were not pressed to a vote. Similarly, we have difficulties with articles 208 to 211, 220 and 221 as they now stand and, as far as the latter is concerned, our statements at the 38th and 39th meetings of the Third Committee, held on 12 May and 13 September 1978, respectively, are recalled.<sup>46</sup>

Naturally, our competent authorities will study the draft convention with all the attention it deserves, and will make their final position known in due course in the appropriate manner. In the meantime, the Government of Israel can recognize only those changes in the existing international law which are embodied in an appropriate international instrument duly accepted by it.

We reserve the right to supplement these observations at a later stage if necessary.

We wish to conclude with this expression of our appreciation to the President of the Conference and his colleagues, and to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and all his colleagues in the Secretariat for their great efforts throughout this Conference.

<sup>46</sup> See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. IX (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.V.3).