

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
24 February to 27 April 1958

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Periodic reconvening of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea: letter dated 16 April from the Chairman of the Delegation of Peru to the President of the Conference

Extract from the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume II (Plenary Meetings)*

be full working days, with meetings being held both in the morning and afternoon.

(j) Each committee should consider establishing a timetable for the complete disposal of each remaining article or group of articles, and this should be strictly observed.

4. The General Committee calls the urgent attention of all delegations to the above recommendations, and feels that, if these measures can be strictly adhered to, it will prove possible for the Conference to carry out its work within the limit it has set itself.

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Periodic reconvening of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea: letter dated 16 April from the Chairman of the Delegation of Peru to the President of the Conference

[Original text: Spanish]
[16 April 1958]

On behalf of the delegation of Peru, I have the honour to submit to you and to the General Committee a proposal for the periodic reconvening of the Conference.

As you will gather from the enclosed text, the proposal is of a general nature; its object is to enable the international community to review regularly, at not too infrequent intervals, the state of the law of the sea and its problems and to adopt appropriate decisions relating thereto.

The delegation of Peru considers that, in view of the evolution of the law of the sea under the impact of new legal concepts and of scientific and economic findings and studies, one cannot hope, on any particular occasion, to elaborate immutable instruments that can remain unaffected by that evolution. It seems, therefore, that the best way in which the international community could keep abreast of that evolution would be to arrange periodic conferences, such as the present, to consider the problems of the law of the sea in the light of whatever new developments may have supervened, of reports submitted by governments, and of their experience of the operation in practice of the instrument signed or approved at this conference.

(Signed) Alberto ULLOA
Chairman of the Delegation

Annex

PERU: PROPOPSAL

The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Considering that the results of this conference as embodied in the Final Act [or: in the Convention approved] should be regarded as marking but one stage in the uninterrupted evolution of the law of the sea,

Considering that, for this reason, it is in the interest of the international community that provision should be made for a periodic review of new developments and for the adoption of appropriate decisions relating thereto,

1. *Decides* that, on the expiry of a period of not less than five years from the signing of the Final Act [or: of the Convention] embodying the results of this Conference, another United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea should be held to consider the problems of the law of the sea in the light of whatever new developments may have supervened, of reports submitted by governments, and of their experience of the operation in practice of the Convention approved at this Conference;

2. *Transmits* the foregoing decision to the General Assembly of the United Nations with the request that, having considered this decision, the Assembly should adopt such resolution as it thinks advisable.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.13/L.11

Report of the Fifth Committee

[Original text: French]
[19 April 1958]

I. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The Fifth Committee was asked to study the question of free access to the sea of land-locked countries, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1105 (XI) of 21 February 1957. The Assembly recommended that the Conference on the Law of the Sea to be convened by virtue of that resolution should "study the question of free access to the sea of land-locked countries, as established by international practice or treaties".

II. OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE

2. At its first meeting, on 26 February 1958, the Committee elected Mr. J. Zourek (Czechoslovakia) as Chairman; at its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, it elected M. Guevara Arze (Bolivia) as Vice-Chairman and Mr. A. H. Tabibi (Afghanistan) as Rapporteur.

III. PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

3. The following preparatory documents were before the Committee: (a) a memorandum concerning the question of free access to the sea of land-locked countries (A/CONF.13/29 and Add.1) prepared by the United Nations Secretariat; (b) a memorandum submitted by the Preliminary Conference of Land-locked States, held at Geneva from 10 to 14 February 1958 (A/CONF.13/C.5/L.1), (c) an extract from the Final Act of the Economic Conference of the Organization of American States, held at Buenos Aires from 15 August to 4 September 1957 (A/CONF.13/C.5/L.4); and (d) a document containing information concerning signatures, ratifications and accessions to certain conventions relevant to the question of free access to the sea of land-locked countries (A/CONF.13/C.5/L.5 and Corr.3).