

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
24 February to 27 April 1958

Document:

A/CONF.13/L.50

Declaration by the Chairmen of the Delegations of Chile, Ecuador and Peru

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

DOCUMENT A/CONF.13/L.50

Declaration by the Chairmen of the Delegations of Chile, Ecuador and Peru

[Original text : Spanish]
[27 April 1958]

The debates at this Conference and the various decisions taken at it which relate, directly or indirectly, to the conservation and utilization of the resources of the sea are evidence of the increasing recognition of the special right of the coastal State, inherent in its geographical position.

Accordingly, although it was possible to discern a rather wider measure of support for our claims concerning the sea, we declare our resolve to use every occasion, whether in negotiations with other countries or at future international conferences, for the purpose of securing the establishment and extension of a more just régime of the sea that will safeguard effectively the recognized special right of the coastal States to defend their economy and the livelihood of their populations.

The reasons which, in recent years, have led Chile, Ecuador and Peru to enact certain legislative provisions and to enter into certain agreements—to which Costa Rica has become a party—still remain valid.

In the absence of international agreement on sufficiently comprehensive and just provisions recognizing and creating a reasonable balance among all the rights and interests, and also in view of the results of this Conference, the regional system applied in the southern Pacific, which stands for the protection of situations vital to the countries of the region, remains in full force so long as just and humane solutions are not worked out.

(Signed)

Luis Melo LECAROS,
Chairman of the
Delegation of
Chile

Jose V. TRUJILLO,
Chairman of the
Delegation of
Ecuador

Alberto ULLOA,
Chairman of the
Delegation of
Peru

CONVENTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, OPTIONAL PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE
ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE, AND FINAL ACT

DOCUMENT A/CONF.13/L.52

Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone
(adopted by the Conference at its 20th plenary meeting)

*The States Parties of this Convention
Have agreed as follows :*

PART I

TERRITORIAL SEA

SECTION I. GENERAL

Article 1

1. The sovereignty of a State extends, beyond its land territory and its internal waters, to a belt of sea adjacent to its coast, described as the territorial sea.
2. This sovereignty is exercised subject to the provisions of these articles and to other rules of international law.

Article 2

The sovereignty of a coastal State extends to the air space over the territorial sea as well as to its bed and subsoil.

SECTION II. LIMITS OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA

Article 3

Except where otherwise provided in these articles, the

normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low-water line along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the coastal State.

Article 4

1. In localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity, the method of straight baselines joining appropriate points may be employed in drawing the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
2. The drawing of such baselines must not depart to any appreciable extent from the general direction of the coast, and the sea areas lying within the lines must be sufficiently closely linked to the land domain to be subject to the régime of internal waters.
3. Baselines shall not be drawn to and from low-tide elevations, unless lighthouses or similar installations which are permanently above sea level have been built on them.
4. Where the method of straight baselines is applicable under the provisions of paragraph 1, account may be taken, in determining particular baselines, of economic interests peculiar to the region concerned, the reality and the importance of which are clearly evidenced by a long usage.