

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

Geneva, Switzerland  
24 February to 27 April 1958

Document:  
**A/CONF.13/L.8**

## **Second report of the General Committee: measures for expediting the work of the Conference**

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

At the request of the Government of the United Arab Republic, a note from the Government dated 24 February 1958 regarding the formation of the United Arab Republic and the election of President Gamal Abdel Nasser as President of the new republic, together with a note dated 1 March 1958, are hereby communicated to all the States Members of the United Nations, to principal organs of the United Nations and to subsidiary organs of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General has now received credentials for Mr. Omar Loutfi as Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations, signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic. In accepting this letter of credentials, the Secretary-General has noted that this is an action within the limits of his authority, undertaken without prejudice to and pending such action as other organs of the United Nations may take on the basis of the notification of the constitution of the United Arab Republic and the note of 1 March 1958.

#### Annex A

##### PERMANENT MISSION OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 24 FEBRUARY 1958

The plebiscite held in Egypt and Syria on 21 February 1958 having made clear the will of the Egyptian and the Syrian people to unite their two countries in a single State, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic has the

honour to notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the establishment of the United Arab Republic, having Cairo as its capital, and of the election, in the same plebiscite, of President Gamal Abdel Nasser as President of the new Republic.

#### Annex B

##### PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

1 March 1958

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in pursuance of its note dated 24 February 1958, regarding the formation of the United Arab Republic and the election of President Abdel Nasser, has the honour to request the Secretary-General to communicate the content of the above-mentioned note to the following:

- (a) All the States Members of the United Nations;
- (b) Other principal organs of the United Nations;
- (c) Subsidiary organs of the United Nations, particularly those on which Egypt or Syria, or both, are represented.

It is to be noted that the Government of the United Arab Republic declares that the Union henceforth is a single Member of the United Nations, bound by the provisions of the Charter and that all international treaties and agreements concluded by Egypt or Syria with other countries will remain valid within the regional limits prescribed on their conclusion and in accordance with the principles of international law.

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.13/L.8

#### Second report of the General Committee: measures for expediting the work of the Conference

[Original text: English]  
[8 April 1958]

1. At its third meeting, held on 8 April 1958, the General Committee had before it a report by the Secretariat reviewing the progress of the work of the Conference (A/CONF.13/BUR/L.2). In the report, the Secretariat submitted for the consideration of the Committee various draft recommendations designed to expedite the proceedings in order that the Conference might be able to finish its task by the agreed closing date—i.e., Thursday, 24 April.

2. As from and including 9 April, only fourteen days (including Saturdays) remain before the closing date. In planning the remaining work, it should be borne in mind that, as from Monday, 21 April, there should be only plenary meetings and meetings of the Drafting Committee of the Conference.

3. After discussing the Secretariat's report, the General Committee unanimously approved the recommendations set out below. It should be noted that the first of these recommendations regarding the disposition of amendments is of primary importance, since without it the others of a more procedural character will lose much of their effectiveness.

(a) Delegations are urged to study carefully the amendments they have submitted, with a view to ascertaining whether those to which they attach lesser importance can be withdrawn. Delegations are also urged to consult together informally in order to combine amendments embodying substantially the same points.

(b) Each committee should, where appropriate, immediately establish a working group (or drafting committee) to which all amendments of a drafting character should

be referred for immediate study and report back to the Committee. These working groups should also deal with adopted articles the texts of which need any drafting adjustments.

- (c) (i) The Fourth Committee should finish its work by the close of business on Saturday, 12 April, in order to allow the other four committees to hold more meetings a day during the remaining week available for committee work;
- (ii) The Second and the Fifth Committees should aim at completing their agenda by the close of business on Wednesday, 16 April;
- (iii) The First and Third Committees should make every endeavour to finish by the close of business on Saturday, 19 April.

(d) Each committee should impose a time-limit on speeches of five minutes, both for proposers of motions and for other speakers.

(e) Committees should endeavour to devote as little time as possible to the discussion of procedural questions. Points of order should be dealt with immediately in accordance with the rules of procedure, without debate.

(f) Every effort should be made to utilize available meeting facilities to the full.

(g) All meetings should begin at 10 a.m. and 2.45 p.m., starting on Wednesday, 9 April.

(h) Two committee meetings should be held every night from Monday to Friday, beginning on Wednesday, 9 April.

(i) Saturday, 12 April and Saturday, 19 April, should

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.

## DOCUMENT A/CONF.13/L.10

### 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).