

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
24 February to 27 April 1958

Summary Records of the 3rd and 4th Plenary Meetings

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

whereas the Yemeni proposal was that the General Committee should be given the right to invite States not participating in the Conference to send representatives.

The United States motion was carried by 62 votes to 12, with 11 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 26 February 1958, at 4 p.m.

President : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand)

Convening of the main committees

[Agenda item 6]

1. The PRESIDENT said that under rules 46, 47 and 48 of the rules of procedure (A/CONF.13/35), the Conference was required to set up five main committees :

First Committee (Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone)

Second Committee (High Seas : General Régime)

Third Committee (High Seas : Fishing ; Conservation of Living Resources)

Fourth Committee (Continental Shelf)

Fifth Committee (Question of Free Access to the Sea of Land-locked Countries)

Each State would be represented by one person on each of those committees.

2. He would suspend the plenary meeting in order that the five committees might be convened to elect their chairmen.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m., and resumed at 5.5 p.m.

Election of vice-presidents

[Agenda item 7]

3. The PRESIDENT drew attention to rule 13 of the rules of procedure and to the fact that Thailand, Australia, Norway, Panama, Ceylon and Czechoslovakia were already represented on the General Committee by the President and the Chairmen of the five main committees. He then called for a vote by secret ballot.

4. Mr. GARCIA AMADOR (Cuba) said that his delegation had decided to withdraw its candidature for a vice-presidency because, owing to reasons and circumstances which it would be inappropriate to mention, it could not count on the support of the regional group to which it belonged.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of Spain and Tunisia acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers	84
Invalid ballots	Nil
Number of valid ballots	84
Abstentions	2

Number of members voting 82

Required majority 42

Number of votes obtained

1. United States of America 73

2. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 72

3. India 71

4. France 68

5. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 63

6. Italy 62

7. Netherlands 62

8. Egypt 60

9. Mexico 56

10. Argentina 55

11. Guatemala 54

12. Poland 52

13. China 50

Having obtained the required majority, the representatives of the following countries were elected vice-presidents : United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, France, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Italy, Netherlands, Egypt, Mexico, Argentina, Guatemala, Poland and China.

Organization of work

[Agenda item 8]

5. The PRESIDENT proposed that the question of organization of work be referred to the General Committee for report to the plenary conference.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Friday, 28 February 1958, at 10.45 a.m.

President : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ruiz Moreno (Argentina), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Organization of work (A/CONF.13/L.2) (continued)

[Agenda item 8]

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

1. The PRESIDENT invited representatives to consider the General Committee's report on the organization of the work of the Conference (A/CONF.13/L.2).

The recommendations in the General Committee's report were adopted without comment.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.