

Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
17 March – 26 April 1960

Document:-
A/CONF.19/L.15

Final Act of the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Extract from the *Official Records of the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (Summary Records of Plenary Meetings and of Meetings of the Committee of the Whole, Annexes and Final Act)*

Final Act of the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

DOCUMENT A/CONF.19/L.15 †

[Original text: English]

[26 April 1960]

1. The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which met at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva from 24 February to 27 April 1958, adopted a resolution on 27 April 1958 in which it requested the General Assembly of the United Nations to study at its thirteenth session the advisability of convening a second international conference of plenipotentiaries for further consideration of the questions left unsettled at that Conference.¹⁸ The General Assembly of the United Nations, by resolution 1307 (XIII), adopted on 10 December 1958, decided that a second international conference of plenipotentiaries on the law of the sea should be called for the purpose of considering further the questions of the breadth of the territorial sea and fishery limits.

2. The Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea accordingly met at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva from 17 March to 26 April 1960.

3. The Governments of the following eighty-eight States were represented at the Conference: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Cameroun, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Federation of Malaya, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Republic of Viet-Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

4. At the invitation of the General Assembly, the following specialized agencies were represented at the Conference by observers:

International Labour Organisation;
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
International Civil Aviation Organization;
World Health Organization;
International Telecommunication Union;
World Meteorological Organization;
Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.

5. At the invitation of the General Assembly, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the following inter-governmental organizations were also represented by observers at the Conference:

Conseil Général des Pêches pour la Méditerranée;
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission;
International Institute for the Unification of Private Law;

League of Arab States;

Organization for European Economic Co-operation;

Permanent Conference for the Exploitation and Conservation of the Maritime Resources of the South Pacific;

6. The Conference elected His Royal Highness Prince Wan Waithayakon Krommun Naradhip Bongsprabandh (Thailand) as President.

7. The Conference elected as Vice-Presidents Albania, Argentina, Canada, China, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

8. The following committees were set up:

General Committee

Chairman: The President of the Conference.

Committee of the Whole:

Chairman: Mr. José Antonio Correa (Ecuador)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Max Sörensen (Denmark)

Rapporteur: Mr. Edwin Glaser (Romania)

Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Nathan Barnes (Liberia)

9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Mr. C. A. Stavropoulos, the Legal Counsel. Mr. Yuen-li Liang, Director of the Codification Division of the Office of the Legal Affairs of the United Nations, was appointed Executive Secretary.

10. The General Assembly, by its resolution convening the Conference, referred to the Conference for its information the records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea held in 1958.¹⁹

11. The Conference also had before it certain documents submitted by the Secretariat of the United Nations. These included a provisional agenda (A/CONF.19/1), provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.19/2) and a memorandum on the method of work and procedures of the Conference (A/CONF.19/3). The Conference took note of the memorandum on the method of work and procedures of the Conference and adopted the provisional agenda; the rules of procedure, as amended by the Conference (A/CONF.19/7), were also adopted.

12. The Conference referred to the Committee of the Whole the two substantive items on its agenda entitled: "Consideration of the questions of the breadth of the territorial sea and fishery limits in accordance with resolution 1307 (XIII) adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1958" and "Adoption of conventions or other instruments regarding the matters considered and of the Final Act of the Conference." The Committee of the Whole held 28 meetings from 21 March to 13 April 1960, and on 14 April 1960 submitted its report (A/CONF.19/L.4) to the Conference.

† Incorporating document A/CONF.19/L.15/Corr.1.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, document A/CONF.13/L.56, resolution VIII.

¹⁹ *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. I to VII.

13. The Conference adopted only the two resolutions set out in the annex.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives have signed this Final Act.

DONE AT GENEVA this twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand nine hundred and sixty, in a single copy in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic. The original texts shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations Secretariat.

Annex

I

The Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,

Considering that, whatever the result of the Conference, its records will be of the utmost value for the correct interpretation of its work;

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Secretary-General at the 2nd plenary meeting of the Conference concerning the possibility and cost of publishing the complete text of the statements made at the Conference in the original in a trilingual record, produced from the sound recordings and the texts of speeches as supplied, in most cases, by delegations;

Recommends to the General Assembly of the United Nations that at its fifteenth session it approve the necessary budget appropriations for the publication, in the form described above, of a complete verbatim record of the discussions at the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

*8th plenary meeting,
21 April 1960.*

II

*The Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,
Having considered* the question of fishery limits,

Recognizing that the development of international law affecting fishing may lead to changes in the practices and requirements of many States,

Recognizing further that economic development and the standard of living in many coastal States require increased international assistance to improve and expand their fisheries and fishing industries, which in many cases are handicapped by a lack of modern equipment, technical knowledge, and capital,

1. *Expresses the view* that technical and other assistance should be available to help States in making adjustments to their coastal and distant-waters fishing in the light of new developments in international law and practices;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments participating in the Conference to the facilities for assistance already available through the United Nations and specialized agencies;

3. *Urges* the appropriate organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Technical Assistance Board, and the United Nations Special Fund to give sympathetic and urgent consideration to any requests for assistance made by member Governments based on the new developments, and also urges them to consider, jointly or separately, further comprehensive studies and programmes of technical and material assistance;

4. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to inform the General Assembly through its annual reports, of the action taken in response to this resolution;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring this resolution to the attention of the appropriate organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies for suitable action at the earliest practicable time.

*13th plenary meeting,
26 April 1960.*