

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

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A/CONF.62/L.71

Report of the Chairman of the Third Committee

Extract from the *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume XV (Summary Records, Plenary, General Committee and First Committee, as well as Documents of the Conference, Tenth and Resumed Tenth Sessions)*

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Report of the Chairman of the Third Committee

[Original: English]
[17 April 1981]

1. I have the honour to report briefly to the Conference on the work of the Third Committee at the current session. It may be recalled at the outset that in my last report to the Conference (A/CONF.62/L.61)³⁸ the substantive negotiations on Parts XII, XIII and XIV were completed. The results of these negotiations are reflected in the informal text of the draft convention on the law of the sea (A/CONF.62/WP.10/Rev.3 and Corr.1 and 3). It was also stated that the Committee had attained a level of agreement which could offer a substantially improved prospect for consensus. This assessment, which has emerged from the Committee's deliberations, was subsequently confirmed by the Conference itself at the end of the resumed ninth session.

2. At this session, an informal meeting of the Committee was held on 25 March 1981 in order to ascertain whether there were still any issues which could be discussed by the Committee.

3. I am now pleased to inform the Conference that the Committee reiterated its previous conclusion, namely, that the substantive negotiations had been completed. It was agreed that the draft convention on the law of the sea with respect to Parts XII, XIII and XIV constitute a compromise based on a

sound balance which should not be upset by reopening issues which had already been extensively negotiated.

4. It was also agreed that if and when called upon by the Conference the Committee should be available to consider any issue within its terms of reference.

5. I wish to take this opportunity and place on record my appreciation of the excellent work done by the Drafting Committee, its language groups and the co-ordinators. On this occasion, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Mr. Beesley. The recommendations advanced by the Drafting Committee did not affect the substance of the text and altogether they constitute a distinct improvement from a drafting point of view.

6. Since the recommendations of the Drafting Committee have been considered in informal meetings of the plenary Conference, the adopted suggestions should be issued in a document in order to keep a clear record.

7. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members of the Committee for their understanding and co-operation which has been the main feature of the atmosphere in the Committee throughout the long years of arduous negotiations.

8. Finally, I wish to pay special tribute to the secretariat for their exemplary diligence, dedication and most valuable service rendered to the Committee and to its Chairman.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. XIV (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.V.2).

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.72

Report of the President of the Drafting Committee on behalf of the President of the Conference and the Chairmen of the First, Second and Third Committees

[Original: English]
[23 April 1981]

1. At four informal meetings of the plenary Conference held on 23, 25 and 26 March and 1 April 1981 consideration was given to the recommendations of the Drafting Committee on Parts II-X and Parts XII-XIV of the draft convention on the law of the sea (informal text) (A/CONF.62/WP.10/Rev.3 and Corr.1 and 3), set out in the report of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.62/L.67/Rev.1).

2. At an informal plenary meeting held on 15 April 1981, consideration was given to the further report of the Drafting Committee relating to these recommendations of the Drafting Committee which had been deferred at its informal meetings, pending further consideration by the Drafting Committee; at the same informal plenary meeting, consideration was given to the first of the series of recommendations of the Drafting Committee on Part XI set out in document CG/WP.15. Certain other proposals on Parts II-X, Parts XII-XIV and Part XI are still pending in the Drafting Committee.

3. The recommendations of the Drafting Committee approved during the informal plenary meetings at the tenth session of the Conference are set out in the addenda to the report of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.62/L.67/Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.3-13) and amended by document A/CONF.62/L.67/Add.14.