

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

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-

**A/CONF.62/120**

## **Resolution on the development of national marine science, technology and ocean service infrastructures adopted by the Conference at the 182nd meeting on 30 April 1982**

*Extract from the Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume XVI (Summary Records, Plenary, First and Second Committees, as well as Documents of the Conference, Eleventh Session)*

El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The appointment of the representatives of Albania, Barbados, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Chad, Maldives, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Seychelles has been communicated to the Executive Secretary by cables from the Ministries for Foreign Affairs concerned.

5. The appointment of the representatives of the following countries had been communicated to the Executive Secretary by letter, cable or note verbale from permanent missions: Afghanistan, Angola, Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Poland, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Upper Volta, Yemen and Zaire. The appointment of the representatives of the United Nations Council for Namibia was communicated to the Executive Secretary by a letter from the Chairman of the Council.

6. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that, subsequent to the preparation of his memorandum, credentials in due form had been received from Egypt.

7. The Executive Secretary further informed the Committee that letters had also been received from Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau and Swaziland.

8. The Chairman proposed that, in the light of past practice, the Committee should accept the credentials referred to in paragraphs 3 and 6 above and that, as an exceptional measure and subject to later validation, it should accept the communications referred to in paragraphs 4, 5 and 7 above in lieu of formal credentials.

9. The representative of Hungary recorded his delegation's objection to the acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea, stating that, in the view of the Hungarian delegation, these credentials were null and void.

10. The representative of China objected to the statement by the representative of Hungary, stating that, in the view of their delegation, the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea were valid. The representative of Japan said that the decision of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on this issue should be followed.

11. The Chairman noted that the views and reservations expressed would be reflected in the report of the Committee. Subject to these views and reservations, summarized in paragraphs 9 and 10 above, the Committee decided to approve the following draft resolution:

*"The Credentials Committee,*

*"Taking into account the views expressed during the debate,*

*"Accepts the formal credentials of the representatives that have been received;*

*"Accepts as an exceptional measure and subject to later validation, the communications referred to in paragraphs 4, 5 and 7 above in lieu of formal credentials."*

## DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/120\*

### **Resolution on the development of national marine science, technology and ocean service infrastructures adopted by the Conference at the 182nd meeting on 30 April 1982**

[Original: English]  
[7 May 1982]

#### *The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,*

*Recognizing* that the Convention on the Law of the Sea is intended to establish a new régime for the seas and oceans which will contribute to the realization of a just and equitable international economic order through making provision for the peaceful use of ocean space, the equitable and efficient management and utilization of its resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment,

*Bearing in mind* that the new régime must take into account, in particular, the special needs and interests of the developing countries, whether coastal, land-locked, or geographically disadvantaged,

*Aware* of the rapid advances being made in the field of marine science and technology, and the need for the developing countries, whether coastal, land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, to share in these achievements if the aforementioned goals are to be met,

*Convinced* that, unless urgent measures are taken, the marine scientific and technological gap between the developed

and the developing countries will widen further and thus endanger the very foundations of the new régime,

*Believing* that optimum utilization of the new opportunities for social and economic development offered by the new régime will be facilitated through action at the national and international level aimed at strengthening national capabilities in marine science, technology and ocean services, particularly in the developing countries, with a view to ensuring the rapid absorption and efficient application of technology and scientific knowledge available to them,

*Considering* that national and regional marine scientific and technological centres would be the principal institutions through which States and, in particular, the developing countries, foster and conduct marine scientific research, and receive and disseminate marine technology,

*Recognizing* the special role of the competent international organizations envisaged by the Convention on the Law of the Sea, especially in relation to the establishment and development of national and regional marine scientific and technological centres,

\*Incorporating document A/CONF.62/120/Corr.1, of 18 May 1982.

Noting that present efforts undertaken within the United Nations system in training, education and assistance in the field of marine science and technology and ocean services are far below current requirements and would be particularly inadequate to meet the demands generated through operation of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Welcoming recent initiatives within international organizations to promote and co-ordinate their major international assistance programmes aimed at strengthening marine science infrastructures in developing countries,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to determine appropriate priorities in their development plans for the strengthening of their marine science, technology and ocean services;

2. *Calls upon* the developing countries to establish programmes for the promotion of technical co-operation among themselves in the field of marine science, technology and ocean service development;

3. *Urges* the industrialized countries to assist the developing countries in the preparation and implementation of their marine science, technology and ocean service development programmes;

4. *Recommends* that the World Bank, the regional banks, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and other multilateral funding agencies augment and co-ordinate their operations for the provision of funds to developing countries for the preparation and implementation of major programmes of assistance in strengthening their marine science, technology and ocean services;

5. *Recommends* that all competent international organizations within the United Nations system expand programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries in the field of marine science technology and ocean services and co-ordinate their efforts on a system-wide basis in the implementation of such programmes, paying particular attention to the special needs of the developing countries, whether coastal, land-locked or geographically disadvantaged;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

## DOCUMENTS A/CONF.62/L.84 AND ADD.1

Possible impact of the convention, with special reference to article 151, on developing countries which are producers and exporters of minerals to be extracted from the Area: report of the Secretary-General

### DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.84

[Original: English]  
[2 March 1982]

#### SYNOPSIS

The Secretary-General was requested to prepare a preliminary study on what is essentially the question of the impact that sea-bed mining will have on the economies of developing countries which also produce and export the same metals as those which will be produced from the sea-bed (copper, nickel, cobalt and manganese). The following report covers work done in the preliminary study. It is divided into five sections and four annexes.

Section I of the report is an introduction and explains the structural form that has been used for the preliminary study. The directive to the Secretariat lends itself to quite a broad interpretation in establishing the purpose and scope of the preliminary study. At the same time, the fact that no specific guidance concerning parameters or data were provided by the Conference and included in the directive precludes the preliminary study from proceeding to any quantitative conclusions. Therefore a preparatory and planning role was assigned to the preliminary study, and the first section of the report further explains the reasoning which led to this decision. It then goes on to outline the plan for further investigation, which may take the form of a full-scale study.

Sections II, III and IV of the report explain the successive parts in the planned full-scale study which is outlined in Section I and define the data areas and the analytical techniques which have to be agreed upon before the full-scale study can proceed.

Section V summarizes the significant points that have emerged from the report and makes some concluding observations.

Annex I gives a very short description of the working of article 151 of the draft convention on the law of the sea. It

then goes on to explain that the calculations in document A/CONF.62/L.66<sup>1</sup> of 24 February 1981 could be considered as a base for defining certain parameters which will be used in the full-scale study. However, the study in document A/CONF.62/L.66 covered a very wide range of assumptions, and it is pointed out that the range would have to be substantially narrowed if the results of further studies were to have any practical application. Annex II gives a list of documents previously published by the United Nations relating to the subject under study and includes a short résumé of several documents which are considered particularly relevant. It is pointed out in the report that a considerable amount of information on sea-bed mining, technical, economic and political, is available in the publications of various societies and institutions. Annex III is a brief outline of the role that the mineral industries play in the economies of several developing countries which, from *prima facie* evidence, could most likely be adversely affected. The subject matters of both annexes III and IV are of such wide and extensive character that the information given in these annexes must, of necessity, be very attenuated and is intended only to assist in explaining the purpose and procedure of the full-scale study.

#### SECTION I

1. At its 54th meeting, on 27 August 1981, the First Committee requested the Secretary-General to carry out a preliminary study on the possible impact of the convention on the economies of developing countries which are producers and exporters of the minerals to be extracted from the Area with special reference to the provisions of article 151.

2. It should be noted that the request stipulated a preliminary study, and this implied that further investigation in the

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XV (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.V.4).