

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-
A/CONF.62/50

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the international zone extending beyond national jurisdiction

Extract from the Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume VI (Summary Records, Plenary, General Committee, First, Second and Third Committees, as well as Documents of the Conference, Fifth Session)

7. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that, subsequent to the preparation of his memorandum, credentials in due form had been received from Bolivia, Chad, Guatemala, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru, Swaziland and Zambia.

8. The representatives of Chad and Hungary sought clarification concerning paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Executive Secretary's memorandum. The Executive Secretary replied.

9. The Chairman proposed that, in the light of the past practice of the Committee, the Committee should accept the credentials referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 above and that, as an exceptional measure and subject to later validation,

it accept the communications referred to in paragraph 5 above in lieu of formal credentials.

10. The Committee unanimously adopted the Chairman's proposal and recommended to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

'Credentials of representatives to the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference of the Law of the Sea

'The Conference

'Approves the report of the Credentials committee.'

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/50

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the international zone extending beyond national jurisdiction*

[Original: English]
[14 September 1976]

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its twenty-seventh ordinary session at Port Louis, Mauritius, from 24 June to 3 July 1976,

Having considered the interim report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the deliberations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (CM/762 (XXVII)),

Reaffirms that:

1. The international zone, extending beyond national jurisdiction, and its resources, is the common heritage of mankind and that its resources must be utilized in the interest of mankind as a whole with special regard to the interests and needs of developing countries.

2. The international zone, extending beyond national jurisdiction, is one and indivisible and shall neither be divided into sectors nor reserved for a country or a group of countries,

let alone private or public enterprise belonging to one or several States.

3. The international Authority to be set up shall have the power to manage or administer directly the international zone and its resources and may, whenever the need arises, sign contracts or set up mixed ventures with any natural or juridical persons.

4. Whatever the nature of the contract, the Authority must give special attention to strict planning so that the products of the sea-bed may be complementary in order to avoid at all costs competition against developing countries in general, and African countries producers of minerals in particular, to the detriment of their export earnings.

5. In sharing the benefits resulting from the exploitation of the resources of the international zone, consideration should be given to the needs of developing countries, in particular land-locked countries and the least developed among the developing countries.

6. The international zone, a common heritage of mankind, should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Any utilization of this zone for military purposes is strictly prohibited.

*Circulated at the request of the representative of Mauritius, Chairman of the Group of African States at the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/51

Letter dated 15 September 1976 from the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the President of the Conference

[Original: English]
[28 September 1976]

Representatives of the Government of Bermuda have been attached to the United Kingdom delegation at this and the previous sessions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. I am now asked by the Government of Bermuda to make a communication to the Conference.

Discussion of the question of dispute settlement has not yet been taken to the point of decision on whether any permanent institution for settlement will be created, but Bermuda offers itself for the site of any permanent organ which may be decided upon. This offer is made subject to mutual agreement on the responsibilities which the Bermuda Government would be expected to assume.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Conference.

(Signed) D. A. LOGAN
Head of the Delegation of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
to the Third United Nations
Conference on the Law of the Sea