

**THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

*(adopted at its 20th meeting on
27 June 1974 and amended at
its 40th, 52nd and 122nd meetings
on 12 July 1974, 17 March 1975
and 6 March 1980 respectively)*



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INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 10 of its resolution 3067 (XXVIII) of 16 November 1973 by which the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was convened, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the Secretary-General:

“to prepare appropriate draft rules of procedure for the Conference, taking into account the views expressed in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction and in the General Assembly, and to circulate the draft rules of procedure in time for consideration and approval at the organizational session of the Conference;”.

2. In compliance with this mandate the Secretary-General prepared a set of draft rules of procedure (A/CONF.62/2), which were considered at the organizational session of the Conference (A/CONF.62/SR.6, 8-11, 13). On the basis of certain decisions taken at that session as to the organization and structure of the Conference and as a result of informal consultations, the Secretary-General presented some revisions to the draft rules (A/CONF.62/2/Add.1-3), and a number of delegations proposed amendments during that session (A/CONF.62/4-14) or subsequently (A/CONF.62/7/Rev.1, A/CONF.62/10/Add.1, A/CONF.62/16 and 18-21).

3. During the organizational session the President conducted informal consultations on the rules of procedure. Pursuant to a decision taken at the final meeting of that session he conducted further informal consultations from 25 February to 1 March and from 12 to 14 June 1974. These consultations were resumed and completed during the first week of the second session.

4. At its second session the Conference considered (A/CONF.62/SR.15-20) the draft rules and the amendments proposed thereto, on the basis of a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/CONF.62/L.1). After receiving certain proposals by the President consequent on his informal consultations (A/CONF.62/WP.1 and Add.1, WP.4 and Add.1) and the debates in the Conference (A/CONF.62/WP.3 and Add.1, WP.6-7), the Conference adopted its rules of procedure by consensus at its 20th meeting on 27 June 1974 (A/CONF.62/30).

5. Following a report by the General Committee (A/CONF.62/31; A/CONF.62/BUR/SR.2), two additional rules were adopted by consensus at the 40th meeting of the Conference on 12 July 1974 (A/CONF.62/SR.40). These were rule 40, paragraph 2, defining the meaning of the term “States participating”, and rule 63 concerning observers for national liberation movements.

6. At its 52nd meeting held on 17 March 1975, the Conference decided to insert the word "Arabic" at the beginning of rule 56 and to include a new rule 64 concerning observers invited in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3334 (XXIX).

7. At its 122nd meeting, held on 6 March 1980, the Conference decided to delete rule 62 and to renumber the subsequent rules accordingly.

8. In connexion with the resolution by which the Conference was convened, the General Assembly at its 2169th meeting on 16 November 1973 approved a "gentleman's agreement" covering the procedures by which it considered the Conference should take decisions on substantive matters (reproduced as an appendix to A/CONF.62/2 and A/CONF.62/L.1). After consultations the President proposed (A/CONF.62/WP.2) that he should make a declaration incorporating the terms of that agreement, which the Conference would then endorse and which would be set out in an appendix to the rules of procedure. The Conference approved these proposals and endorsed the President's declaration by consensus at its 19th meeting on 27 June 1974.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

CHAPTER I

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of accredited representatives and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the chairman of the delegation.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. Any later change in the composition of delegations shall also be submitted to the Executive Secretary. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the absence of a contrary indication, credentials shall have effect for all sessions of the Conference unless withdrawn or superseded by new credentials.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the first session of the Conference to serve for all sessions. It shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay. At the subsequent sessions of the Conference it shall examine only the credentials of representatives newly accredited, unless the Conference decides otherwise by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

CHAPTER II

OFFICERS

Election

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect a President, 31 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur of each Main Committee provided for in rule 50 and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee provided for in rule 53. These officers shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee and of the officers of each Main Committee; their term of office shall be for all sessions of the Conference. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting, direct the discussions at such meetings, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the limitation of time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak on any question, the closure of the list of speakers, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting.

Rule 8

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President

Rule 9

If the President is absent from a plenary meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

Rule 10

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 11

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

The President shall not vote

Rule 12

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote but shall designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

Functions of the Rapporteur-General

Rule 13

The Rapporteur-General shall act in that capacity in respect of both the Conference and the General Committee. He shall prepare, for approval of the Conference, any reports to be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 14

There shall be a General Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the officers of the Main Committees; the Chairman of the Drafting Committee may participate in the General Committee, without the right to vote. The President of the Conference or, in his absence, the Vice-President designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 15

If the President, the Rapporteur-General, or the Chairman or Rapporteur of a Main Committee finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee may, in case of absence, designate a member of that Committee to take his place in the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 16

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the co-ordination of its work.

Rule 17

Questions affecting the co-ordination of their work may be referred by other committees to the General Committee, which may make such arrangements as it sees fit, including the holding of joint meetings of committees or subsidiary organs and, where appropriate, proposing to the Conference the establishment of joint subsidiary organs.

Rule 18

The General Committee shall meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the Conference, its Main Committees and subsidiary organs, and to make recommendations for furthering such progress. It shall also meet at such other times during a session as the President deems necessary or upon the request of any other of its members.

Rule 19

The General Committee shall perform such additional tasks as are provided for in these rules or as are assigned to it by the Conference.

CHAPTER IV

SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat

Rule 20

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his special representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference, its committees and subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General shall appoint an Executive Secretary of the Conference and shall provide and direct the staff required by the Conference, its committees and subsidiary organs.

3. The Secretariat shall receive, translate, reproduce and distribute documents, reports and resolutions of the Conference, interpret speeches made at the meetings, prepare and circulate records of the public meetings; have the custody and preservation of the documents in the archives of the United Nations; publish the reports of the public meetings; and, generally, perform all other work which the Conference may require.

Statements by the Secretariat

Rule 21

The Secretary-General or any member of the staff designated for that purpose may at any time make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

CHAPTER V

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 22

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating in that session of the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken, provided that for a decision on any matter of substance the presence of representatives of two thirds of the States so participating shall be required.

Speeches

Rule 23

No person may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 24 and 25, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of such speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 24

The Chairman or Rapporteur of a committee, or the representative of a subsidiary organ, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by his committee or organ.

Points of order

Rule 25

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless the appeal is approved by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time-limit on speeches

Rule 26

The Conference may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on the question. When the debate is limited and a representative has spoken his allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Closing of list of speakers

Rule 27

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 28

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Closure of debate

Rule 29

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, and the President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule. Adoption of the motion shall require a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 30

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment.

Order of procedural motions

Rule 31

Subject to rule 25, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Initial documentation

Rule 32

The initial documentation of the Conference shall consist of the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction on its work and of all other relevant documentation of the General Assembly and the Committee.

Proposals and amendments

Rule 33

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. No proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Conference unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations in all languages of the Conference not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though these amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Decisions on competence

Rule 34

Subject to rule 25, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Withdrawal of motions

Rule 35

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 36

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

CHAPTER VI

DECISION-MAKING

Requirements for voting

Rule 37

1. Before a matter of substance is put to the vote, a determination that all efforts at reaching general agreement have been exhausted shall be made by the majority specified in paragraph 1 of rule 39.

2. Prior to making such a determination the following procedures may be invoked:

(a) When a matter of substance comes up for voting for the first time, the President may, and shall if requested by at least 15 representatives, defer the question of taking a vote on such matter for a period not exceeding 10 calendar days. The provisions of this subparagraph may be applied only once on the matter.

(b) At any time the Conference, upon a proposal by the President or upon motion by any representative, may decide, by a majority of the representatives present and voting, to defer the question of taking a vote on any matter of substance for a specified period of time.

(c) During any period of deferment, the President shall make every effort, with the assistance as appropriate of the General Committee, to facilitate the achievement of general agreement, having regard to the over-all progress made on all matters of substance which are closely related, and a report shall be made to the Conference by the President prior to the end of the period.

(d) If by the end of a specified period of deferment the Conference has not reached agreement and if the question of taking a vote is not further deferred in accordance with subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, the determination that all efforts at reaching general agreement have been exhausted shall be made in accordance with paragraph 1 of this rule.

(e) If the Conference has not determined that all efforts at reaching agreement had been exhausted, the President may propose or any representative may move, notwithstanding rule 36, after the end of a period of no less than five calendar days from the last prior vote on

such a determination, that such a determination be made in accordance with paragraph 1 of this rule; the requirement of five days' delay shall not apply during the last two weeks of a session.

3. No vote shall be taken on any matter of substance less than two working days after an announcement that the Conference is to proceed to vote on the matter has been made, during which period the announcement shall be published in the Journal at the first opportunity.

Voting rights

Rule 38

Each State represented at the Conference shall have one vote.

Required majority

Rule 39

1. Decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance, including the adoption of the text of the Convention on the Law of the Sea as a whole, shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, provided that such majority shall include at least a majority of the States participating in that session of the Conference.

2. Rule 37 shall not apply to the adoption of the text of the Convention as a whole. However, the Convention shall not be put to the vote less than four working days after the adoption of its last article.

3. Except as otherwise specified in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall immediately be put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless the appeal is approved by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

*Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"
and of the term "States participating"*

Rule 40

1. For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives present and casting an affirmative or negative vote; representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

2. Subject to the provisions of rules 1 to 5 and without prejudice to the powers and functions of the Credentials Committee, the term "States participating" in relation to any particular session of the Con-

ference means any State whose representatives have registered with the Secretariat of the Conference as participating in that session and which has not subsequently notified the Secretariat of its withdrawal from that session or a part of it. The Secretariat shall keep a Register for this purpose.

Method of voting

Rule 41

1. The Conference shall normally vote by show of hands or by standing, but any representative may request a roll-call. The roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands or by standing and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. Any representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Conference shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the States; nevertheless, the results of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the same manner as that of a roll-call vote.

Conduct during voting

Rule 42

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit representatives to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Division of proposals and amendments

Rule 43

A representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 44

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises part of that proposal.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 45

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Elections

Rule 46

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 47

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the votes of a majority of the representatives present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among more than two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If on that ballot a tie remains among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Rule 48

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the votes of a majority of the representatives present and voting shall be elected. If the number of

candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled; provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

Equally divided votes

Rule 49

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

CHAPTER VII

COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Establishment

Rule 50

In addition to the General Committee, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee, the Conference shall establish three Main Committees, the competence of which shall be determined by the Conference. The Conference and each Committee may, subject to rule 17, establish subsidiary organs (sub-committees or working groups).

Representation in Main Committees

Rule 51

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one person on each Main Committee. It may assign to these Committees such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Statements to restricted organs

Rule 52

Any State participating in the Conference that is not a member of a committee or subsidiary organ shall have the right to explain its views to that body on any proposal that that State has made when that proposal is under consideration, providing that no co-sponsor of the proposal is a member of that body.

Drafting Committee

Rule 53

1. The Conference shall appoint a Drafting Committee to serve for all sessions. The Drafting Committee shall consist of 23 members, including its Chairman; the Rapporteur-General may participate in the Drafting Committee, without the right to vote. It shall, without reopening substantive discussion on any matter, formulate drafts and give advice on drafting as requested by the Conference or by a Main Committee, co-ordinate and refine the drafting of all texts referred to it, without altering their substance, and report to the Conference or to the Main Committee as appropriate. It shall have no power of or responsibility for initiating texts.

2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this rule, the sponsor or a representative of the group of sponsors of a proposal shall be invited to the appropriate meetings of the Drafting Committee and may participate, without the right to vote, in the discussion at the discretion of the Chairman, in case the Conference or a Main Committee decides to refer that proposal to the Drafting Committee without taking a decision thereon.

Officers and elections

Rule 54

Except in the case of the officers of the Main Committees and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, each committee and subsidiary organ shall elect its own officers. The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the committee or organ decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the committee or organ shall immediately proceed to the election.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 55

The rules relating to officers, conduct of business and voting of the Conference (contained in chapters II (rules 6-13), V (rules 22-36) and VI (rules 37-49) above) shall be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of committees and subsidiary bodies, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General, Drafting and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of subsidiary organs may exercise the right to vote;

(b) The presence of representatives of a majority of the States participating in that session of the Conference shall be required for any decision to be taken on any matter in a Main Committee; a majority of the representatives on the General, Drafting or Credentials Committee or any subsidiary organ shall constitute a quorum;

(c) Decisions of committees and subsidiary organs shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except in the case of a reconsideration of a proposal for which the majority required shall be that established by rule 36;

(d) Rule 37 shall be applied to the Main Committees, provided that a determination pursuant to paragraph 1 shall require a majority of the representatives present and voting, the deferment of the question of taking a vote by the Chairman of the Committee in conformity with subparagraph 2 (a) shall not exceed five calendar days and the assistance specified in subparagraph 2 (c) shall be rendered the Chairman by the officers of the Committee

CHAPTER VIII

LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 56

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 57

1. Speeches made in any language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. Any representative may make a speech in a language other than a language of the Conference. In this case he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the languages of the Conference and interpretation into the other such languages by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

Records of meetings

Rule 58

1. Summary records of the plenary meetings of the Conference and of the meetings of the Main Committees shall be kept in the languages of the Conference. As a general rule, they shall be circulated as soon as possible simultaneously in all the languages of the Conference, to all representatives, who shall inform the Secretariat within five working days after the circulation of the summary record of any changes they wish to have made.

2. The Secretariat shall make sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and the Main Committees and of other committees and subsidiary organs when they so decide.

CHAPTER IX

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Plenary and committee meetings

Rule 59

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

Meetings of subsidiary organs

Rule 60

As a general rule meetings of subsidiary organs shall be held in private.

Communiqués to the press

Rule 61

At the close of any private meeting a *communiqué* may be issued to the press through the Executive Secretary.

CHAPTER X

OBSERVERS

Observers for national liberation movements

Rule 62

1. National liberation movements in their respective regions recognized by the Organization of African Unity or by the League of Arab States may designate representatives to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committees and, as appropriate, the subsidiary organs.

2. Written statements of such observers shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations at the Conference.

Observers invited in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3334 (XXIX)

Rule 63

1. Representatives designated as observers pursuant to the invitations extended by the Secretary-General under paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3334 (XXIX) may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committees and, as appropriate, the subsidiary organs.

2. Written statements of such observers shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations at the Conference.

Observers for intergovernmental organizations

Rule 64

1. The specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committees and, as appropriate, the subsidiary organs, upon the invitation of the President or chairman, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.

2. Written statements of such observers shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations at the Conference.

Observers for non-governmental organizations

Rule 65

1. International non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and its Main Committees.

2. Upon the invitation of the President or chairman, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the body concerned, these representatives may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities.

3. Written statements submitted by these non-governmental organizations on subjects in which they have a special competence and which are related to the work of the Conference, shall be distributed by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements were made available.

CHAPTER XI

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of amendment

Rule 66

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by the majority specified in paragraph 1 of rule 39, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

APPENDIX

Declaration incorporating the "Gentleman's Agreement"¹ made by the President and endorsed by the Conference at its 19th meeting on 27 June 1974

Bearing in mind that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole and the desirability of adopting a Convention on the Law of the Sea which will secure the widest possible acceptance,

The Conference should make every effort to reach agreement on substantive matters by way of consensus and there should be no voting on such matters until all efforts at consensus have been exhausted.

¹ Approved by the United Nations General Assembly at its 2169th meeting on 16 November 1973.