



Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Opening for Signature of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

**Fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly
9 - 10 December 2002**

Programme

Monday, 9 December 2002

10 am - 1 pm **General Assembly Hall** (Commemorative Meeting)

Opening of the Commemorative Meeting by the President of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

Statements:

The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (former President of Malta) paying special tribute to the late
Ambassador Arvid Pardo

Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore, President, Third United Nations Conference on the
Law of the Sea (1981-1982)

Chairpersons of the five regional groups

Ambassador Don MacKay of New Zealand, President, Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou of Cameroon, President, Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

Mr. Satya N. Nandan, Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority

Judge Gilbert Guillaume, President, International Court of Justice

Judge Dolliver Nelson, President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Mr. Peter F. Croker, Chairman, of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf



Other Activities

Scientific presentations on new discoveries in the oceans (Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium)

1.30 – 2.15 pm Dr. Kim Juniper, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Quebec, Canada

- Hydrothermal vent ecosystems

2.15 – 3.00 pm Dr. Peter A. Rona, Professor of Geological and Marine and Coastal Science,
Rutgers University, United States of America

- Latest Developments on marine minerals

Informal Panels
(ECOSOC and Trusteeship Council Chambers)
(in parallel)

3 – 6 p.m. Topic: **The Dynamism of the Convention: Challenges for the Present and Solutions for the Future**

The topic is composed of six parts, which in turn will be divided equally into two panels, as follows:

PANEL I

- I. The International Seabed Authority: an institution to manage the “common heritage of mankind”
- II. Limits in the seas: the need to establish secure maritime boundaries
- III. Settlement of disputes: a linchpin of the Convention

PANEL II

- IV. Implementation of the Convention: the challenge to ensure the effectiveness of its rules (role of non-States actors/regional approach)
- V. Emerging concepts for the development and strengthening of the legal regime for the oceans (ecosystem-based approach, marine protected areas and oceans stewardship)
- VI. Tools for change: the amendment procedure

6.30 – 8.30 p.m. **Reception** (Visitor’s Lobby – 46th Street and 1st Avenue)



Tuesday, 10 December 2002

General Assembly Hall

General debate on agenda item 25, “Oceans and the law of the sea”, and the adoption of resolutions

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Morning plenary meeting

3 – 6 p.m. Afternoon plenary meeting



Side Event

(Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium)

1.00 - 2.15 p.m. Discovery Channel
“The Blue Planet: Seas of Life”

NOTE:

9.00 am **Treaty Event** (West Foyer, adjacent to the General Assembly Hall)

On 9 December, a treaty ceremony will be organized in the event that States, responding to the call for universal participation, are in a position to deposit their instruments of ratification or accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention.

Similarly, it will also be possible for States that may wish to avail themselves of the occasion to deposit their charts showing the outer limits of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf, and/or lists of geographical coordinates of points specifying the respective geodetic datum.