At its 58th plenary meeting on Friday 18 April 1975 the Conference decided to request the Chairman of its three Main Committees each to prepare a single negotiating text covering the subjects entrusted to his Committee. In his concluding statement, before the Conference made this request, the President stressed that the single text should take account of all the formal and informal discussions held so far, would be informal in character and would not prejudice the position of any delegation nor would it represent any negotiated text or accepted compromise. It should, therefore, be quite clear that the single negotiating text will serve as a procedural device and only provide a basis for negotiation. It must not in any way be regarded as affecting either the status of proposals already made by delegations or the right of delegations to submit amendments or new proposals.

**Part I: Interpretation**

*Article 1*

For the purposes of this Convention

(i) "States Parties" to this Convention means Contracting Parties.

(ii) "Activities in the Area" means all activities of exploration of the Area and of the exploitation of its resources, as well as other associated activities in the Area including scientific research.

(iii) "Resources" means resources in situ.
2. Stationary and mobile installations relating to the conduct of activities in the Area shall be subject to the following conditions:

(i) Such installations shall be erected, emplaced and removed solely in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and subject to rules and regulations prescribed by the Authority. The erection, emplacement and removal of such installations shall be subject to timely notification through Notices to Mariners or other generally recognized means of notification;

(ii) Such installations shall not be located in the Area where they may obstruct passage through sea lanes of vital importance for international shipping or in areas of intense fishing activity;

(iii) Safety zones shall be established around such installations with appropriate markings to ensure the safety both of the installations themselves and of shipping. The configuration and location of such safety zones shall be such as to form a belt impeding the lawful access of shipping to particular maritime zones or navigation along international sea lanes;

(iv) Such installations shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;

(v) Such installations shall not possess the status of islands. They shall have no territorial sea, nor shall their presence affect the determination of territorial or jurisdictional limits of any kind.

3. Other activities in the marine environment shall be conducted with reasonable regard for activities in the Area.

RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE

Article 17

1. Every State shall have the responsibility to ensure that activities in the Area, whether undertaken by governmental agencies, or non-governmental entities or persons under its jurisdiction, or acting on its behalf, shall be carried out in conformity with the provisions of this Convention. The same responsibility applies to international organizations and their members for activities in the Area undertaken by such organizations or on their behalf. Damage caused by such activities shall entail liability on the part of the State or international organization concerned in respect of activities which it undertakes itself or authorizes.

2. A group of States or a group of international organizations acting together shall be jointly and severally responsible under these articles.

3. Every State shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the responsibility provided for in paragraph 1 of this article shall apply mutatis mutandis to international organizations of which it is a member.

PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING LAND-LOCKED AND OTHER GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES

Article 18

Participation in the activities in the Area of developing countries, including the land-locked and other geographically disadvantaged States among them, shall be promoted, having due regard to their special needs and interests.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL OBJECTS

Article 19

1. All objects of an archaeological and historical nature found in the Area shall be preserved or disposed of by the Authority for the benefit of the international community as a whole, particular regard being paid to the preferential rights of the State of country of origin, or the State of cultural origin, or the State of historical and archaeological origin.

2. The recovery and disposal of wrecks and their contents more than 50 years old found in the Area shall be subject to regulation by the Authority without prejudice to the rights of the owner thereof.

3. Any dispute with regard to a preferential right under paragraph 1 or a right of ownership under paragraph 2, shall, on the application of either party, be subject to the procedures for settlement of disputes provided for in this Convention.

Part III: The International Sea-bed Authority

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEA-BED AUTHORITY

Article 20

1. There is hereby established the International Sea-bed Authority which shall function in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

2. All States Parties to this Convention are members of the Authority.

3. The seat of the Authority shall be at Jamaica.

4. The Authority may establish such regional centres or offices as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

NATURE AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AUTHORITY

Article 21

1. The Authority is the organization through which States Parties shall administer the Area, manage its resources and control the activities of the area in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

2. The Authority is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all of its members.

3. All members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with this Convention.

FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

Article 22

1. Activities in the Area shall be conducted directly by the Authority.

2. The Authority may, if it considers it appropriate, and within the limits it may determine, carry out activities in