

We are very close to the possibility of general agreement on an acceptable international code of the Law of the Sea. Most of the articles recommended by the International Law Commission have already been adopted. There has been far greater achievement up to this point than is generally realized outside of this conference. The one stumbling block in the way of achieving a broad basis of agreement which would have historic significance far beyond the subject matter of this conference itself is the solution of the problems raised by the articles now under consideration. Again may I humbly urge in all earnestness that we seek agreement on terms which may be generally acceptable recognizing that no solution can be perfect at the outset in its application to every country. If we do that and at this conference establish a regime of law, then we can go forward year by year in a solution of many important details which now obstruct our path. I do wish to thank the distinguished delegates too for their patience in listening to what I have had to say. I have sought however to explain the position which has been before you for a considerable time. When we are so near the possibility of success, I am confident that agreement can still be reached. That is the high purpose, that is the great challenge which now faces every one of us.

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