

in Article 64 of the RSNT which provided that "the continental shelf of a coastal state comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance 200 nautical miles from the baselines, "whichever is greater". The LL/GD states continued to insist that the rights of the coastal state over the resources of the continental shelf should be limited to a maximum of 200 miles from the baselines. Some of these states proposed cutting off coastal state sovereignty by reference to a depth criteria as an alternative approach. The group of wide margin states (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, U.K., Ireland, India, Argentina, USA) on the other hand, remained united in insisting, consistent with the established rule in the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf and the "natural prolongation" principle established in the 1969 North Sea Continental Shelf Case, that states have the right to exploit the shelf out to the edge of the margin even where it extends beyond 200 miles. As well, the wide margin states supported a draft provision proposed by Ireland which defined the continental margin in precise fashion by reference to the thickness of sedimentary rock. The wide margin states or "margineers" as they are known, reiterated their willingness to agree to a formula for the contribution of payments to the international community derived from revenues earned from resource exploitation on the continental shelf beyond 200 miles, provided that the Irish formula for defining the margin was accepted by the Conference. As a result of the continuing opposition of the LL/GD group of states to coastal state sovereign rights to the edge of the margin, the ICNT does not contain the Irish formula in the definition of the continental shelf in Article 76. However, the position of the margineers is protected in Article 76 of the ICNT (old RSNT Article 64) which recognizes the continental shelf as extending to the outer edge of the margin. Furthermore, a revised revenue sharing formula along lines which would be largely acceptable to the wide margin states — from 1% up to a maximum of 5% of the well-head value — has been included in Article 82 of the ICNT. Canadian acceptance of a scheme for payments or contributions is conditional on an acceptable definition of the outer edge of the margin and the retention of coastal state sovereignty over shelf resources.