

Failure to see the Conference through to a successful conclusion after it has accomplished so much would be a severe setback to international law and the U.N. Without agreement on a new convention, the functional approach to coastal state jurisdiction as now reflected in the ICNT would in all likelihood give way to the more absolutist approach of the territorialists, i.e. full sovereignty within a 200 mile zone. Failure of the Conference could result in a proliferation of conflicts over the use of the world's oceans, in particular resulting from differences of view as to the regime which governs deep seabed mining, the rights of passage through international straits falling within the territorial sea of states bordering such straits and the sovereign rights and jurisdictions of coastal states within a 200 mile zone.

Seventh Session

The next and Seventh Session of the Law of the Sea Conference is scheduled to be held beginning March 28 for seven to eight weeks in Geneva to continue the negotiating process and, hopefully, to move closer to an agreement on the text of a draft treaty. Canada is firmly on record as being committed to achieving a successful outcome to UNCLOS and the establishment of a new convention governing all aspects of ocean law. That commitment is unchanged and the Canadian delegation will continue to play its full part in the negotiations, both inter-sessionally and at the next session in Geneva.

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