Viewing the fact that the Conference had the precedence in discussing most recent modifications in international rules, a great number of delegates from different fields and nationalities participated at the Conference. It was observable that the most remarkable attendance was from the natives of those countries whose procurement rules were discussed throughout the course of the Conference.

C. *Conference on "The Settlement of Energy, Petroleum and Gas Disputes" Organized Jointly with the World Bank and the League of Arab States, Held on November 18-19, 1995*

On November, the 18th and the 19th, the CRCICA took the lead in organizing an International Conference on "the Settlement of Energy, Petroleum and Gas Disputes". Co-organized with the World Bank and the League of Arab States, the Conference shed light on the settlement and avoidance of disputes pertaining to Electric Networks, Nuclear Energy, Petroleum and Gas. It was remarkable that the Conference gained outstanding attention. Representatives from different national and international organizations and associations shared the interest to participate. To exemplify and not to enumerate, representatives from the World Energy Council, the Netherlands Nuclear Energy, the Centre for Petroleum and Mineral Law Studies/University of Dundee and the Nuclear Power Authority of Egypt proved interested to attend the Conference.

The Conference played a significant role in gathering delegates of different nationalities. Notwithstanding the remarkable presence from the different Asian and African countries, the nationalities represented in the Conference went beyond these countries since some Europeans and Americans witnessed the event.

D. *Seminar on "The Assessment of International Trade Contracts" Jointly with the French Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Held on December 9-21, 1995*

On December the 9th through the 21st, 1995, the CRCICA co-organized with the French Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique ACCT) a Seminar entitled: "The Assessment of International Trade Contracts". Other Co-organisers were the Sengor University/Alexandria and the Institute of International Business Law/Cairo University. The Seminar managed to discuss and review the different phases international contracts are likely to pass through including negotiations, contract drafting and finally enforcement or annulment thereof.

The Seminar witnessed a wide-ranged participation from bearers of twelve different nationalities with an obvious majority from the African

French-speaking countries. Participants exchanged thoughts and shared enthusiasm for the initiation of cooperation among the French-speaking countries.

Cooperation Agreements

Being well aware of the importance of widening the scope of international relations among different arbitration organizations, the CRCICA entered, on the 17th of September, 1995, into a cooperation agreement with the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC).

The scope of the agreement *inter alia* covers future cooperation in popularizing the institution of arbitration and promoting wider use of facilities available. The agreement represents the twenty-sixth cooperation agreement the Centre concluded since inception.

The Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos

The Lagos Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration was established under the auspices of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1989. This brought the number of Regional Centres by the Committee to three. The first was established in Kuala Lumpur in 1978 and the second is Cairo Centre in 1979. It will be recalled that at the Baghdad and Doha Sessions of the AALCC held in February, 1977 and January, 1978 respectively, the Committee in order to promote the development of the Afro-Asian region decided to establish Regional Centres for International Commercial Arbitration as viable alternatives to the traditional arbitration institutions in the West through an integrated scheme for the settlement of disputs arising out of international commercial and economic transactions.

In 1980, an Agreement was signed between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the AALCC on the establishment and functioning of the Lagos Regional Centre. However in 1989, as already stated, the Centre was formally inaugurated.

It is important to mention that while the process of setting up the Lagos Centre was on-going, Nigeria at the same time was responding to the demands of increased competition in world markets, growth in international trade and commerce as well as features of modern times.

Consequently in 1988, as the first African State, Nigeria enacted the Arbitration and Conciliation Decree No. 11 based on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration.

The Decree also implements the New York Convention on the

Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards which Nigeria acceded to in 1970 therefore making applicable the Convention to any award made in Nigeria or in any Contracting State arising out of an international commercial arbitration. Prior to the 1988 enactment, arbitration was conducted in Nigeria under the 1914 Arbitration Act which was dominated by courts control, quite rudimentary and unsatisfactory. Nigeria in this regard has positively provided an effective legislative framework for the conduct of arbitration, doubtless to say, however, that there is room for improvement.

The Lagos Centre at Inception

At its inception, the Centre was located at Norman Williams Street, Ikoyi, Lagos. However, owing to logistic and operational difficulties, the Centre more or less recorded no progress. Financial constraint also militated against the growth of the Centre as Nigeria like any other member State or any State for that matter is not insulated form the global economic recess.

The accommodation given to the Centre could not be retained and the promotional activities could not be carried on effectively, it came to near halt.

Another problem at the time was that the Lagos Centre had its secretariat in the Ministry of Justice outside the Centre itself.

As discouraging as the initial stage might have appeared, the request for a fully operational Centre continued with considerable interest from the members of the public. In 1994, the process of reactivating the Centre commenced and its became necessary to analyse and determine the problems that militated against the successful operation of the Centre in the course of which the following were resolved for immediate action:

(i) Accommodation

A suitable and permanent accommodation should be secured.

(ii) Secretariat

A Secretariat to be run *in situ*.

(iii) To contact the AALCC secretariat on the reactivation and conclude the Headquarter's Agreement and begin promotional activities to enable it become fully operational.

The Nigerian Government earnestly through the Federal Ministry of Justice immediately commenced the reactivation of the Lagos Regional Centre. Firstly, a suitable and befitting allocation was secured for use as

the seat of the Centre. As contained in the handbills the Lagos Centre has facilitates for two or three arbitrations simultaneously and accommodation for hire by parties and counsel.

Since the reactivation, the Lagos Centre has written to inform the AALCC Secretariat, Member States within the sub-region and some relevant international organisations. At the ECOWAS Meeting of Legal Experts in April, 1995 in Lagos, notice of the reactivated Lagos Centre was circulated through letters and the body was also addressed in that regard.

Further the Lagos Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration in September 1995, in Lagos organised a national Seminar. Some of the Seminar topics included Arbitration as a means of dispute resolution, Review of various Arbitration Institutions, National and International Arbitration Legislation etc. There were forty-two participants at the Seminar from all over the country.

A pertinent question that participants needed clarification on was the status of the Centre. They were, however, assured that the Centre is not for the host government and that it was established under the auspices of the AALCC.

All the cardinal points regarding the AALCC network scheme of Regional Centres were highlighted at the Centre.

Apart from concluding the Headquarter's Agreement and other administrative steps in order to promote and popularise the idea of resorting to arbitration, programme for 1996 includes a national workshop scheduled for April on Arbitration and incorporation of Alternative Dispute Resolution Techniques into Law Practice in Otta, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Preparation for an international seminar on Arbitration in collaboration with the Association of Arbitrators of Nigeria is under way.

Finally, it is important to state that the Lagos Regional Centre has been resuscitated with the firm resolve of the host country not to renege on its commitment. The Lagos Centre with time shall make its mark in the sub-region and effectively continue as a part of the AALCC network of Regional Centres.

II. Law of the Sea

(i) Introduction

The topic Law of the Sea was initially taken up, at the initiative of the Government of Indonesia in 1970 and has thereafter remained a priority item at the successive Sessions of the AALCC. The subject matter is one in which all the Member States of the AALCC are deeply interested and it has also been the subject of discussion at inter-sessional and Working Group meetings. Initially conceived as a programme of rendering assistance to Asian-African governments to prepare themselves for the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea through preparation of background papers and provision of opportunities for indepth discussions, the AALCC has gradually emerged as a useful forum for a continuing dialogue on some of the major issues on this subject.

Following the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (hereinafter referred to as the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982 or simply the Convention) the AALCC at its 23rd Session held in Tokyo in 1983, approved the future work programme on this subject. This included a comprehensive set of broad issues among which were: (i) the encouragement of taking steps towards ratification of the Convention (ii) undertaking of studies from time to time on specific matters or issues of practical importance to member governments for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention; (iii) assistance to Governments in regard to the work of the Preparatory Commission; and (iv) the examination of the question of promoting regional or sub-regional co-operation taking into account the interests of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged States.

The subject matter is one in which all the Member States of the AALCC are deeply interested and the significance of ratifying the Law of the Sea Convention cannot be over emphasized. This endeavour has hitherto been a modest step in the AALCC Secretariat's resolve to underscore the unified character of and to promote the universal adherence to the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982.

The item was last considered at the 34th Session of the AALCC held in Doha in 1995. The brief of documents prepared by the Secretariat for that session, *inter alia,* furnished an overview of developments relating to the entry into force of the Law of the Sea Convention,[1] the establishment of International Seabed Authority (hereinafter referred to as ISBA) and the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. It had also contained an overview of the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (hereinafter called the Agreement). The AALCC at that Session *inter alia* decided to inscribe on the agenda of its 35th Session an item entitled "Implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982".

The Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted by General Assembly Resolution 48/263 on July 28, 1994 and provisionally entered into force on November 16, 1994 in accordance with Article 7 paragraph 12 of the Section I of the Annex. The Agreement was open for signature until 28 July, 1995 and has been signed by 79 States.[2] On 28 July 1995 16 States, including 3 Member States of the AALCC,[3] became bound by the Agreement under the simplified procedure set out in Article 5 thereof. It may be stated that 11 States Parties, including 5 Member States of the AALCC, to the

1. See Doc. AALCC/XXXIV/Doha/95/5 and 5A. The Convention has since its adoption in 1982, been ratified by 81 States viz. Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cook Island, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Greece, Guineia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Macedonia, (former Yugoslav Republic of), Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Paraguay, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Siera Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Of these 14 States viz. Brazil, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Kuwait, Malta, Oman, Philippines, Tunisia, Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia have appended declarations to their instruments of ratification.
2. The States signatories to the Agreement are: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, European Comunity, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. The States are Bahamas, Barbados, Cote d'Ivoire, Grenada, Guinea, Iceland, Jamaica, Namibia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Convention before the adoption of the Agreement notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations in writing that they were not availing themselves of the simplified procedure.[4] It may be stated that 6 States which had earlier notified that did not wish to avail themselves of the simplified procedure under Article 5 of the Agreement proceeded to ratify their adherence to the same.[5]

It will be recalled that Article 6 of the Agreement stipulates that the Agreement will enter into force 30 days after the date on which 40 States have established their consent to be bound, provided that such States include at least seven of the States referred to it paragraph 1(a) of resolution II of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea... and that at least five of those States are developed States. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has in his report to the General Assembly at its 50th session *inter alia,* pointed out that although 41 States have consented to be bound by the Agreement, the requirements of article 6 have not been met for the Agreement to enter into force.[6] Only 10 Member States of the AALCC have signified their consent to be bound by the Agreement.

Be that as it may, pending its entry into force the Agreement is, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 7, being provisionally applied by 124 States. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has reported that 14 States have notified that they do not wish to apply the agreement provisionally.[7]

The 34th Session of the AALCC

At the 34th session, the AALCC, *inter alia,* urged its Member States, who had not already done so, to consider ratifying the Convention on the Law of the Sea. The AALCC also urged the full and effective participation of the Member States in the ISBA so as to ensure and safeguard the legitimate interests of the developing countries and for the progressive development of the principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind. It directed the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with such international organizations

4. The States which so notified the depositary were Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Egypt, Indonesia, Malta, Philippines, Sudan, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.
5. The States which ratified the Convention are Cyprus, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Senegal and Seychelles.
6. These States are: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cook Islands, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Iceland, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritius, Paraguay, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, *Singapore,* Slovenia, *Sri Lanka,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
7. These States are: Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, *Iran (Islamic Republic of)* Ireland, *Jordan,* Mexico, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, *Saudi Arabia,* Spain, Sweden and Uruguay.

as are competent in the fields of ocean and marine affairs and to consider assisting Member States in their representation at the ISBA.

The AALCC called upon Member States to give timely consideration to the need for adopting a common policy and strategy for the interim period before the commercial exploitation of the deep seabed minerals becomes feasible. To this end, the AALCC urged Member States to adopt an "evolutionary approach" especially to the "initial function" of the Authority so as to make the ISBA useful to the international community and the developing countries during this initial period.

The AALCC urged Member States to cooperate in regional initiative for secured practical benefits of the new ocean regime and decided to inscribe on the agenda of its 35th session an item entitled "Implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982". The AALCC brief in this chapter seeks to furnish an overview of some recent developments in the matters relating to the Law of the Sea.

It may be mentioned in this regard that in the opinion of the Secretariat of the AALCC the implementation of the Convention implies the undertaking of a system of internal measures which may include any or all of the following:

(a) Policy measures (formulation of a development and management plan); (b) Constitutive measures (establishment of new national institutions); (c) Administrative measures; (d) Legislative measures (new laws etc); (e) Technical measures; (f) Judicial measures; (g) Education and training measures; (h) Measures promoting participation; and (i) Public information measures.

While some of these measures are one time events, the others are occasional or continual. Yet others are continuous. The actual measures taken by a government would, however, depend on several variables such as geography, internal politics, external political affiliations, economic well being and management consideration.

Insofar as implementation involves a range of activities to be undertaken by a government, certain costs are involved, such as the allocation of human resources, funds and other material resources, and time. For instance, in the case of zones of national jurisdiction insofar as the conservation of living resources and marine environment protection are concerned, the measures which a coastal State is required to take are, at a minimum, of a scientific, legislative, administrative and judicial nature, including surveillance and monitoring. Every single one of these measures entails

economic costs. In the case of small States, these costs can be reduced through regional cooperation.[8]

Thirty-fifth Session : Discussion

Introducing the item, the *Assistant Secretary-General*, Mr. Asghar Dastmalchi stated that the item "Law of the Sea" was taken up by the AALCC in 1970 at the initiative of the Government of Indonesia and had thereafter remained a priority item at successive regular sessions of the Committee. The subject had also been discussed at inter-sessional and working group meetings. When the item was last considered at the 34th Session of the Committee held in Doha in 1995, the Committee had considered a brief of documents prepared by the Secretariat on the progress of work in the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (PREPCOM). That brief had also contained an overview of the Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea adopted by General Assembly Resolution 48/263. The brief of documents prepared for the 34th Session had also furnished an account of the progress of work at the first and second parts of the first session of the International Sea Bed Authority (ISBA) held in Kingston during 1994.

The Committee, the Assistant Secretary-General stated, at its 34th Session *inter alia* decided to inscribe on the agenda of its 35th Session an item entitled "Implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982". The brief prepared by the Secretariat viz. Doc. No. AALCC/XXXV/Manila/96/3 for the present session sought to furnish an overview of developments in the matters relating to the Law of the Sea, in particular in respect of (i) the Work of the Assembly of the ISBA; (ii) the Meeting of the State Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; and (iii) the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The brief also provided an overview of the Agreement on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) entered into force on November 16, 1994 and the 50th Session of the General Assembly reiterated its profound satisfaction at the entry into force of this Convention. The General Assembly at its 50th Session, *inter alia*, renewed

8. The Significance and Cost of Ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982. Doc. No. *AALCC/XXX/91/7*. Reprinted in the *Combined Report of Twenty-sixth to Thirtieth Session* (AALCC, New Delhi, 1992) p. 5 et. seq.

its call to all States that had not already done so to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention in order to achieve the goal of universal participation. While reaffirming the unified character of the Convention, the General Assembly called upon States to harmonize legislation with the provisions of the Convention and to ensure consistent application of those provisions. It also noted with satisfaction the progress made in practical arrangements for the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

In another significant development in recent months, the IOI had established an independent World Commission of the Jurists. The Commission was expected to refocus world attention on the importance of sustainable ocean development and the Law of the Sea Convention and to monitor its ratification, implementation and progressive development at national, regional and global levels. The Commission was mandated to examine whether States, especially developing States, were able to fulfill their duties, enjoy their rights and general benefits under the Convention. It was also expected to analyze the difficulties, if any, encountered by the developing States and propose ways and means of overcoming such difficulties. The 30-Member World Commission on the Ocean was known to have met in Tokyo in December 1995 under the Chairmanship of President Mario Soares of Portugal. The report and findings of the Commission were to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development and expected to be widely disseminated by 1998—the Year of the Oceans. The AALCC at its current session might wish to consider the role of the AALCC during the International Year of the Oceans.

The Delegate of the *Republic of Korea* stated that on February 28, 1996, his country became the 85th State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. His country was a registered pioneer investor and had invested US $ 86 million thus far. It had been carrying out exploration activities in the Pacific Ocean in Clarion/Clipperton area. The Republic of Korea claimed a 12 nautical mile territorial sea and a contiguous zone of the same breadth in 1995. His government had recently declared its intention to an EEZ. Since the seas that lie between the three States in North East Asia are nowhere wider than 400 nautical miles, his Government looked forward to a friendly and mutually respectful negotiation and settlement of the EEZ with those opposite States. The delimitation of the EEZ with these States would be in accordance with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. He announced that his Government had nominated Professor Choon-Ho Park as a candidate for

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, emphasizing Professor Park's academic accomplishments and expertise in matters related to the Law of the Sea. The delegate pointed out that this was the first time that the Republic of Korea had fielded a candidate to a world judicial body.

The Delegate of *Pakistan* said that the AALCC had played an important role in the negotiations of the Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982). The provisions relating to the EEZ and the Continental Shelf of the Convention, had in fact, assumed the status of customary international law through practice of States even before entry into force of the Convention in 1994. He said that there was a need to take up issues of special interest for Member States. His delegation suggested the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries as one such area.

The Delegate of the *People's Republic of China* expressed the view that many countries, including his own, had started their domestic legal procedures to ratify or accede to the Convention and the Agreement. Therefore, the Convention was increasingly becoming the practical rules of international law safeguarding the new ocean order of the world and governing the rational exploitation and use of marine resources by all States. The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority established under the Convention had begun to operate and conducted many rounds of consultations on the election of the members of the Council and the Secretary-General. His delegation was fully aware that many dificulties remain to be overcome on the issue of the election of the members of the Council. However, his delegation believed that the forthcoming consultations on this issue would achieve positive results satisfactory to all parties as long as they showed the spirit of cooperation and strictly complied with the relevant provisons, principles and criteria of the Convention and the Agreement. In this connection, his delegation was opposed to the application of the Agreement in the election of the relevant groups of members of the Council.

He further stated that another important development relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention was the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks adopted on August 4, 1995 and the Agreement for the Implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He stated that this Agreement would make significant impact on the conservation and management of the marine fishery resources in general and the living resources of the high seas in particular. In his view, this Agreement was of positive significance on the whole and would play a certain positive role in implementing the Convention's provisions regarding the conservation and use of the marine living resources of the high seas.

The Delegate of *Japan* stated that Japan was steadily preparing for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, which are planned to be submitted to the Diet, the Japanese Parliament, for approval during the current session scheduled to continue until June. Japan was particularly concerned about the possible inefficiency of the Authority's work at the initial stage. His Government hoped that the Assembly would successfully elect both Council's members and the Secretary-General during the second session, to be held recently, in order to activate the Authority's administrative and institutional functioning as soon as possible.

Japan attached a great importance to the first election of members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which was to be held on August 1 this year. Japan had already nominated Professor Soji Yamamoto as a candidate for the membership of the Tribunal.

The Delegate of *Indonesia* said that the Law of the Sea was of great importance for his country, and to all countries of Asia and Africa, coastal countries and land-locked countries alike. Which is why the AALCC took up at their initiative, in 1970, the Law of the Sea, which from then on became an important item of many successive AALCC sessions.

The AALCC took no small part in encouraging member countries to take steps to ratify the Convention as it did at the 23rd AALCC session in Tokyo in 1983 when it approved a work programme including to this effect. He said that the Convention would not fully serve its purpose unless it was universally participated in. His delegation called member States which had not already done so to become parties to the Convention.

The Delegate of *Cyprus* said that her country was a party to the Convention on the Law of the Sea since 1988 as well as the signatory to the Agreement to Implement Part XI of the Convention. Her Government had initiated measures to ratify the 1994 Agreement. Her country had since clearly manifested its strong commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Government had nominated Ambassador Jacovides for election to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the belief that his election would be for the benefit of the world community.

The Delegate of *Singapore* stated that his country had been deeply involved in the negotiations leading to the adoption of UNCLOS III in 1982. Although there was an increasing number of State parties to the UNCLOS, he stated that there was still a significant number of States that have yet to become parties. His delegation joined hands with the delegate

of Indonesia to call upon States not yet parties to UNCLOS to consider doing so at the earliest opportunity. He also suggested that AALCC reaffirm its call made at the 34th Session to call upon Member States to ratify UNCLOS as soon as possible. With more States, particularly developing States being parties of UNCLOS, would enable mutual enforcement and support in the various decision-making processes provided in the UNCLOS.

The Delegate of the *Philippines* announced that it was seeking a seat in the Sea Bed Council and a seat in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.