30th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea opened for signature on 10 December 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica. Thirty years on, the Convention has assumed the contours of universality—with 162 States Party. The achievements it embodies are immense. The drafters of the Convention strived to improve global security and justice among states, while recognising that the oceans and their finite resources should be dealt with holistically. It is a framework for dealing with the myriad ways in which humanity interacts with the oceans.

The Convention has created a robust but flexible framework for balancing intricate relationships, such as those of coastal states and seafaring nations, developing and developed states, as well as for balancing protection and preservation of the marine environment with sustainable use of the resources of the oceans. But significant challenges remain. As an island state, straddling three great oceans—the Pacific, the Indian and the Southern—Australia has fundamental and abiding interests in the strengthening and progressive development of the Convention regime.

This symposium considers the achievements of the last 30 years and the challenges of the future.

### PROGRAM

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| 9 – 9.15am | Welcome and opening remarks  
> Gillian Bird, Deputy Secretary, DFAT  
Chair: Richard Rowe, DFAT |
| 9.15 – 9.45am | REFLECTIONS ON THE CONVENTION  
> Professor Ivan Shearer RFD AM, University of South Australia  
Chair: Richard Rowe, DFAT |
| 9.45 – 10.45am | IMPLEMENTATION & PRACTICE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION  
The Enduring Relevance of UNCLOS for Maritime Security  
> Professor Natalie Klein, Macquarie University  
Freedom of Navigation  
> Professor Stuart Kaye, University of Western Australia  
UNCLOS: Naval perspectives in practice  
> CAPT Peter Bowers, Defence  
Aspects of Australia’s Practice and Prospects on Maritime Boundaries and Fisheries  
> Greg French, DFAT  
Chair: Associate Professor Don Anton, ANU |
| 10.45 – 11.15am | Break |
| 11.15am – 12.45pm | THE LAW OF THE SEA INSTITUTIONS  
The International Sea-Bed Authority  
> Associate Professor Don Anton, The Australian National University  
The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea  
> Robyn Frost, Attorney-General’s Department  
The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf  
> Dr Phil Symonds PSM, Geoscience Australia  
Chair: Associate Professor Shirley Scott, UNSW |
| 12.45 – 1.45pm | Lunch break |
| 1.45 – 3.10pm | CURRENT ISSUES & FUTURE CHALLENGES IN THE LAW OF THE SEA  
The LOSC 30 Years On: The continuing enigma of the EEZ  
> Associate Professor Tim Stephens, University of Sydney  
Conserving Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and UNCLOS: An evolving agenda  
> Professor Robin Warner, University of Wollongong  
Marine Genetic Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction  
> Dr David Leary, University of Technology Sydney  
Chair: Professor Natalie Klein, Macquarie University |
| 3.10 – 3.40pm | Break |
| 3.40 – 5pm | AUSTRALIA AND THE LAW OF THE SEA  
Australia’s Extended Continental Shelf  
> Bill Campbell QC PSM, AGD  
Delineation and Proclamation of Australia’s Maritime Boundaries  
> Mark Alcock, GeoScience Australia  
Maritime Security Policy Challenges  
> Dr Anthony Bergin, Australian Strategic Policy Institute  
Chair: Professor Donald R. Rothwell, ANU |