

## **NOTES ON DOCUMENTATION**

The documents and meeting records of the various United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea are identified by symbols – a combination of unique numbers and letters which serves to indicate the principal organ or subsidiary organ of issue and the type of document. Information on the masthead area of a document, in addition to its complete symbol, includes the distribution category, date of issue, language of issue and original language in which the document was prepared. The symbol and the date of registration are the same in each language edition.

The following provides a brief summary of the various types of documentation and the associated symbols assigned to each of the Conferences, indicating the symbol and nature of the documents, including the first and last document number issued under each organ or series. In the case of most organs and subsidiary organs, meetings are numbered continuously from the first meeting of the body and not from the beginning of each session.

### **THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

#### **Document symbol A/AC/135/- .**

The formal documentation of the Committee is subdivided as follows:

##### Meetings of the Committee, including:

Summary Records	A/AC.135/SR.1 – 36
General Distribution	A/AC.135/1 – 36
Limited distribution	A/AC.135/L.1 – L.3
Restricted documents	A/AC.135/R.1 – R.3

##### Working Group One, including:

The Legal Working group	A/AC.135/WG.1/SR.1 – 3 and SR.6 – 14
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##### Working Group Two, including:

The Economic and Technological Working Group	A/AC.135/WG.2/SR.1 and SR.7 – SR.15
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### **COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

#### **Document symbol A/AC/138/- .**

The formal documentation of the Committee is subdivided as follows:

##### Meetings of the Committee, including:

Summary Records	A/AC.138/SR.1 – 104
General Distribution	A/AC.138/1 – 97

Limited distribution	A/AC.138/L.1 – L.14
Legal Subcommittee (SC.1)	
Summary Records	A/AC.138/SC.1/SR.1 – 35
General Distribution	A/AC.138/SC.1/1 – 10
Limited distribution	A/AC.138/SC.1/L.1 – L.6
Economic and Technical Subcommittee (SC.2)	
Summary Records	A/AC.138/SC.2/SR.1 – 40
General Distribution	A/AC.138/SC.2/1 – 9
Limited distribution	A/AC.138/SC.2/L.1 – L.10
Subcommittee I (SC.I)	
Summary Records	A/AC.138/SC.I/SR.1 – 75
Limited distribution	A/AC.138/SC.I/L.1 – L.28
Subcommittee II (SC.II)	
Summary Records	A/AC.138/SC.II/SR.1 – 80
Limited distribution	A/AC.138/SC.II/L.1 – L.63
Subcommittee III (SC.III)	
Summary Records	A/AC.138/SC.III/SR.1 – 49
Limited distribution	A/AC.138/SC.III/L.1 – L.56

## **THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (1973 – 1982) (UNCLOS III)**

### **Document symbol A/CONF.62/ -**

The formal documentation, arranged according to the main organs of the Conference, is subdivided as follows:

Plenary	
General Distribution	A/CONF.62/1 - 123
Summary Records	A/CONF.62/SR.1 - SR.184
Limited distribution	A/CONF.62/L.1 - L.160
Working Papers	A/CONF.62/WP.1 - WP.11
Background Paper	A/CONF.62/Background/Paper I
Restricted Distribution	A/CONF.62/R.1 - R.7
Reports	A/CONF.62/RCNG/I - 2
Drafting Committee	A/CONF.62/DC/WP.1 - WP.3
Written Statements	A/CONF.62/WS/1 - WS/38
Verbatim Records	A/CONF.62/PV.185 - PV.193/Add. 1
General Committee	
Documents	A/CONF.62/BUR.1 - BUR.14

Summary Records	A/CONF.62/BUR/SR.1 - SR.66
First Committee	
Limited Distribution	A/CONF.62/C.1/L.1 - L.30
Summary Records	A/CONF.62/C.1/SR.1 - SR.56
Weekly Reports	A/CONF.62/C.1/WR.1 - WR.5/Add.1
Second Committee	
Limited Distribution	A/CONF.62/C.2/L.1 - L.101
Summary Records	A/CONF.62/C.2/SR.1 - SR.59
Working Papers	A/CONF.62/C.2/WP.1 and Corr.1
Third Committee	
Limited Distribution	A/CONF.62/C.3/L.1 - L.34/Add.2
Summary Records	A/CONF.62/C.3/SR.1 - SR.46

The only official documents of the Drafting Committee which bear the symbol “DC” are the working papers which contain, in a single document, the Informal Composite Negotiating Text or the text of the Draft Convention. The reports of the Drafting Committee are contained in plenary documents.

## **THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY AND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA**

### **Document symbol ISBA/-.**

The formal documentation, arranged according to the main organs of the Conference, is subdivided as follows:

Plenary	
Information series	LOS/PCN/INF/1 - 26
General distribution	LOS/PCN/1- 153 (Vols. I-XIII)
Limited distribution	LOS/PCN/L.1 - L.115/Rev.1/and Corr.1
Working Papers	LOS/PCN/WP.1 - WP.55
Conference room papers	LOS/PCN/1984/CRP.1- 1994/CRP.69/and Corr.1
General Committee Group of Experts meeting	
Information series	LOS/PCN/BUR/INF/R.1 - INF/R.12 and Corr.1
Reports	LOS/PCN/BUR/R.1 - BUR/R.49
Special Commission 1	
Working papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.1/WP.1 - WP.15

Conference room papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.1/1984/CRP.1 - 1993/CRP.24
Special Commission 2	
Limited distribution	LOS/PCN/SCN.2/L.1 - L.8/Rev.2
Working papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.2/WP.1 - WP.18/Rev.2
Conference room papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.2/1984/CRP.1 - 1993/CRP.9
Training Panel	
Conference room papers	LOS/PCN/TP/1991/CRP.1 - TP/1994/CRP.30
Special Commission 3	
Limited distribution	LOS/PCN/SCN.3/L.1
Working Papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.3/WP.1 - WP.16
Conference room papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.3/1984/CRP.1/Rev.1 - 1993/CRP.21
Special Commission 4	
Limited distribution	LOS/PCN/SCN.4/L.1 - L.20
Working papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.4/WP.1 - WP.16/Add.10
Conference room papers	LOS/PCN/SCN.4/1984/CRP.1/Rev.1 - WP.16/Add.10

### *DISTRIBUTION CATEGORIES*

There are three main categories of distribution applied to documents and meeting records in basic symbol series:

(a) General distribution. Texts in the “General” category are available at the point of issue to the press and public in addition to official participants in sessions. These are basic documents and final meeting records, including agendas, studies and reports, communications from Governments and adopted resolutions and other decisions of main organs.

(b) Limited distribution. Documents in the “Limited” category of distribution are primarily draft texts (e. g., resolutions, amendments, interim reports) subject to replacement by final texts or to selective reproduction in Official Records and other material of transitory interest (such as provisional lists of members, provisional agendas, schedules of meetings), which may or may not be reproduced in reports. Circulation is confined chiefly to participants at the point of issue, and external distribution is held to the minimum. Documents in this category are numbered L.1, L.2, etc.

(c) Restricted distribution. Documents and meeting records in the “Restricted” category are circulated only to members of the issuing body and are not intended for distribution to or consultation by the press and public. The documents may be draft reports or confidential communications, and they are usually numbered R.1, R.2, etc. The meeting records in this category are the records of meetings closed to the press and public.

## *ELEMENTS OF THE SYMBOLS*

(a) In addition to a symbol denoting the principal organ or subsidiary organ of issue, other elements of the symbol may denote the nature of the document, as follows:

Information	-/INF/-
List of delegations, Officers, membership of the committees, Lists of States and Entities that have signed and ratified the Convention	
Conference Room Paper (main organs)	-/CRP. ...
Verbatim records of meetings	-/PV. ...
Summary record	-/SR. ...
Indicates the record of meetings by affixing the series symbol of the main or subsidiary organ, followed by the meeting number:	
Working paper (Main Organs)	-/WP. ...

(b) Modifications of the text of a main document or meeting record are accomplished by the issuance of secondary documents – addenda, revisions, and corrigenda – which are identified by affixing one of the following elements to the symbol of the main text:

Addendum	-/Add. ...
Indicates the issuance of additional text to the main document, (e.g., A/AC.138/SC.1/9/Add.1, Add.2, Add.3);	
Corrigendum	-/Corr. ...
Indicates modification of any specific part of an existing document to correct errors, revise wording or reorganize text whether for substantive or technical reasons, (e.g., A/AC.138/87/Corr.1),	
Revision	-/Rev. ...
Indicates a revised new text which supersedes or replaces that of a previously issued document (e.g. A/AC.138/SC.2/L.5/Rev.1)	