



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.138/SC.II/L.15
14 March 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE
SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND
THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION
SUB-COMMITTEE II

ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLES AS PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS
OF FIJI, INDONESIA, MAURITIUS AND THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This paper is submitted by Fiji, Indonesia, Mauritius and the Philippines for consideration by this Committee with a view to the principles enunciated therein being incorporated into the convention on the Law of the Sea. These principles are designed to accommodate not only the interests of archipelagic States but also other States and of the international community as a whole. They contain the definition of an archipelagic State, its rights over the waters of the archipelago, and the right of innocent passage for international navigation through the waters of the archipelago.

PRINCIPLES

1. An archipelagic State, whose component islands and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical, economic and political entity, and historically have or may have been regarded as such, may draw straight baselines connecting the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago from which the extent of the territorial sea of the archipelagic State is or may be determined.
 2. The waters within the baselines, regardless of their depth or distance from the coast, the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof, and the superjacent airspace, as well as all their resources, belong to, and are subject to the sovereignty of the archipelagic State.
 3. Innocent passage of foreign vessels through the waters of the archipelagic State shall be allowed in accordance with its national legislation, having regard to the existing rules of international law. Such passage shall be through searoutes as may be designated for that purpose by the archipelagic State.
-