

## **B-7: UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

**Name of the convention:** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

**Acronym or short name:** UNCLOS or Montego Bay convention

**International organisation in charge of it:** United Nations (UN)

**Summary description (in plain language):** this convention lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It embodies in one instrument traditional rules for the use of the oceans and at the same time introduces new legal concepts and regimes addresses new concerns. The convention also provides the framework for further development of specific areas of the law of the sea. The convention are divided in 17 parts:

Part I :Introduction

Part II :Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone

Part III :Straits used for International Navigation

Part IV :Archipelagic States

Part V :Exclusive Economic Zone

Part VI:Continental Shelf

Part VII:High Seas

Part VIII:Regime of Islands

Part IX:Enclosed or semi-enclosed Seas

Part X:Right of access of Land-locked States to and from Sea and Freedom of Transit

Part XI:The Area

Part XII:Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment

Part XIII:Marine Scientific Research

Part XIV:Development and Transfer of Marine Technology

Part XV:Settlement of Disputes

Part XVI:General Provisions

Part XVII:Final Provisions

**Date of first approval:** 10 december 1982

**Date of coming into force:** 16 november 1994

**Dates of revision:** no

**Reasons of revisions:** no

**Applicability (situation of ratification):** 145 ratifications. This convention shall enter into force 12 months after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession ([art.308](#)).

**Stakes for ports:** Ports are concerned by this convention:

- Firstly, this convention provides a definition of "Ports" as an "outermost permanent harbour works" ([art.11](#)).

- The convention deals with the port state control "enforcement by port States" ([art.218](#)). So, when a vessel is voluntarily within a port or at an off-shore terminal of a State, that State may undertake investigations.

**Links with other conventions:** International Convention on the Statute on the International Regime of Maritime Ports; [SOLAS](#) (art. 21-23, 39, 41-44, 53, 94, 98, 211, 217); [Load Lines Convention](#) (art.21, 39, 42, 94, 217, 219); [COLREG](#) (art.21, 22, 39, 41, 42, 53, 94, 219); [STCW](#) (art. 21, 39, 42, 94, 202, 217, 219); [MARPOL 73/78](#) (art.21, 39, 42, 94, 202, 211, 212, 217-220, 222, 226, 228, 230, 231, 237, 242-244, 297); [SUA Convention](#) (art.27, 91-92); [London Convention](#) (art.66, 202, 210, 216, 237, 242-244, 297), [Intervention convention](#) (art. 91-92, 142, 221, 237), [Salvage convention](#) (art.98); [SAR](#) (art.98), [FAL](#) (art.108), [ORPC](#) (art. 198-199, 202, 208, 237), ORPC PROT 2000 (art.198-199, 202,208); [AFS](#) (art.200); [CLC](#) (art.235, 237), [HNS](#) (art.235, 237), [FUND](#) (art.235, 237), [BUNKERS](#) (art.235)

**Key-words:** Ports, Port States (art.218).

**Internet hyperlink with other website:**

<http://www.un.org/>

<http://www.unclos.org/>

<http://www.imo.org/>

(full text)

[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/convention\\_overview\\_convention.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm)