Article 31. MARITIME CLAIMS

Nothing in this Convention shall constitute recognition of the claims or positions of any of the Contracting Parties concerning the legal status and extent of waters and zones claimed by any such Contracting Party.

Article 32. AMENDMENT

1. Any Contracting Party may at any time propose amendments to this Convention.
2. Any proposed amendment shall be notified in writing to the Executive Secretary at least 90 days prior to the meeting at which it is proposed to be considered, and the Executive Secretary shall promptly transmit the proposal to all Contracting Parties. Proposed amendments to the Convention shall be considered at the annual meeting of the Commission, unless a majority of the Contracting Parties request a special meeting to discuss the proposed amendment. A special meeting may be convened on not less than 90 days' notice.

3. The text of any amendment adopted by the Commission shall be transmitted promptly by the Executive Secretary to all Contracting Parties.

4. An amendment shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval thereof from all Contracting Parties.

Article 33. WITHDRAWAL

1. A Contracting Party may, by written notification addressed to the Depositary, withdraw from this Convention and may indicate its reasons. Failure to indicate reasons shall not affect the validity of the withdrawal. The withdrawal shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Depositary, unless the notification specifies a later date.

2. Withdrawal from this Convention by any Contracting Party shall not affect its financial obligations under this Convention incurred prior to its withdrawal becoming effective.

Article 34. DEPOSITARY

1. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of this Convention, and any amendments or revisions thereto. The Depositary shall:

(a) send certified copies of this Convention to each signatory to this Convention and to all Contracting Parties;

(b) arrange for the registration of this Convention, upon its entry into force, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) inform each signatory to this Convention and all Contracting Parties of:

(i) instruments of ratification, accession, acceptance and approval deposited in accordance with articles 25 and 26 respectively;

(ii) the date of entry into force of the Convention in accordance with article 27;

(iii) the entry into force of amendments to this Convention in accordance with article 32;

(iv) withdrawals from this Convention pursuant to article 33.

2. The language of communication for the functions of the Depositary shall be English.

Article 35. AUTHENTIC TEXTS

The English and Portuguese texts of this Convention are equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention in the English and Portuguese languages.

DONE at Windhoek, this twentieth day of April 2001, in a single original in the English and Portuguese languages.

Republic of Angola: Maria De Fátima Jardim

European Community: Gunilla Hesselmark and Francisco Ortiz de Zuñiga

Republic of Iceland: Eidur Gudnason

Republic of Korea: Won-Hwa Park

Republic of Namibia: Theo-Ben Gurirab

Kingdom of Norway: Katja Nordgaard

Republic of South Africa: Curtis Ephraim Nkondo

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland in respect of
St. Helena and its dependencies: Nicholas Griffiths

United States of America: Thurmond H. Borden