



## **6th Legal : Laws of the Sea & Piracy**

### **I. Background of Topic**

Piracy, an enduring issue dating back to age of the Vikings, is defined as an act of robbery or criminal act against another particularly at sea. The issue of piracy has existed ever since man has used the ocean for commerce and thus providing the appropriate circumstances and motives for pirates to derive themselves. The threat of pirate attacks is crucially concerning because pirates have developed the accurate reputation as being dangerous and apathetic to those that they are robbing from. Noting that oceans cover roughly 75% of the Earth, it is evident that the constant threat of piracy places everyone traveling by sea at risk for falling victims to these criminals. Despite the obvious danger that pirates create, pirates stand as a problem to the world because of the question on how they should be tried and punished. Due to the fact that land is divided and claimed but seas are not, the world as a whole has to cooperate with one another in order to determine how to suppress this growing phenomenon the seas.

### **II. UN Involvement**

In the late 1960's, Ambassador Arvid Pardo delivered a speech to the United Nations General Assembly commenting on the distress the world would soon face if the claims over seabed rights continued between nations. Already established was the freedom-of-the-seas doctrine which established jurisdiction over seabed rights arbitrarily close to a nation's coastline. The arguments over these jurisdiction lines encouraged Pardo to give his speech and thus lead to the development of the United Nations Seabed Committee soon after. Eventually, more pertinent factors galvanized the need for the United Nations Convention of the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982 whose main goal was to regulate all oceans under a global diplomatic effort. UNCLOS has passed resolutions that allow the right to arrest and seize property from suspected pirates. However, UNCLOS has not been as successful in enforcing such rights and laws of the sea.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

Due to the underlying commonality that the global community has from piracy, all nations first have to be willing to commit to UNCLOS so that the law of the seas is applicable to all seas around the world. As well, UNCLOS may suggest resolutions that require enforcement of the law of the seas globally to ensure that being involved in piracy has repercussions. More efficient steps need to be taken by national governments to support the enforcement of the resolutions passed by UNCLOS. A decisive system should be established according to where the pirates were apprehended and how they will be tried. Ultimately, NGOs may have to be created to financially aide the enforcement of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea.



#### IV. Bloc Positions

**Asia:** Multitudes of Asian countries suffer from the result of pirate attacks along the coasts and therefore hinder the ability to trade safely overseas. Asian countries would most likely support the UNCLOS and in fact rely on the UNCLOS to aid them in their endeavors.

**Latin:** A majority of Latin American countries have both signed and ratified for the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas.

**European:** Nearly all European nations have supported UNCLOS through signing and ratifying it.

**African:** Coastal African nations support UNCLOS contrary to more hesitate land-locked nations in Africa.

**Middle eastern:** Most Middle Eastern nations did not sign UNCLOS and therefore stand apathetic to the issue of piracy or against it entirely.

#### V. Guiding Questions

1. Questions that delegates should answer in their position paper about the topic
2. What is the leading convention combating piracy?
3. How can this convention be improved?
4. How will piracy be limited if not stopped?
5. How will it be regulated?