

Declaration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the application to Australia of the dispute settlement provisions of that Convention

DECLARATION

I, ALEXANDER JOHN GOSSE DOWNER, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia,

HEREBY DECLARE that the Government of Australia makes the following declaration in relation to articles 287 and 298 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea done at Montego Bay on the tenth day of December one thousand nine hundred and eighty-two:

The Government of Australia declares, under paragraph 1 of article 287 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea done at Montego Bay on the tenth day of December one thousand nine hundred and eighty-two that it chooses the following means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, without specifying that one has precedence over the other:

- (a) the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea established in accordance with Annex VI of the Convention; and
- (b) the International Court of Justice.

The Government of Australia further declares, under paragraph 1(a) of article 298 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea done at Montego Bay on the tenth day of December one thousand nine hundred and eighty-two, that it does not accept any of the procedures provided for in section 2 of Part XV (including the procedures referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this declaration) with respect to disputes concerning the interpretation or application of articles 15, 74 and 83 relating to sea boundary delimitations as well as those involving historic bays or titles.

These declarations by the Government of Australia are effective immediately.¹

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ALEXANDER JOHN GOSSE DOWNER, Minister for Foreign Affairs, have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal.

DONE at Canberra this twenty-first day of March, two thousand and two.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

(Alexander Downer)

¹ Entry into force 21 March 2002