Nihar and I affirm Resolved: The United States should accede to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea without reservations.

~~Before we begin, The UN explains that The~~ [~~Law of the Sea~~](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm) ~~convention [is an international agreement] establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.~~

~~"[Acceeding](http://ask.un.org/faq/14594)" is the act where a [country]~~ ~~accepts the offer or the opportunity to~~ ~~become[s] a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other [countries]~~ ~~. It has the same legal effect as ratification. Accession usually occurs after the treaty has entered into force.~~

## Contention 1 is OTEC

A new renewable energy generator, known as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, or OTEC, allows us to generate massive amounts of clean energy from the ocean

[Nagan Srinivasan Memorial University](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nagan_Srinivasan/publication/314789961_Study_on_the_Cost_Effective_Ocean_Thermal_Energy_Conversion_Power_Plant/links/58cab2ffa6fdccdf531a4cfb/Study-on-the-Cost-Effective-Ocean-Thermal-Energy-Conversion-Power-Plant.pdf?origin=publication_detail)

Clean renewable energy is a necessity of today that more and more people are aware of. Countries all over the world support this effort, considering that there is no carbon dioxide emission and no environmental impact. **Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), as one of the renewable energy source, is very attractive because no fossil fuel[s are] needed and i[t]s available with [nearly] unlimited large quantity.** USA is now spending several billion dollars for various renewable energy source projects. The operating cost of most of the renewable energy is very low but the capital cost is enormous. Because of the environmental nature, OTEC is very stable and reliable energy resource for tropical islands like Hawaii. The main challenge is to make the OTEC electric power generation cost-effective and comparable to the nuclear energy source. **OTEC OTEC is a method for [it] generat[es] electricity utilizing the source of stored solar energy available in the ocean [when it’s heated by the sun]  near the equator, where** the surface water temperature is about 25 degree C or more due to heat from sunlight and at 3000 ft depth the water temperature is about 4 degree C. **[employing] A thermodynamic heat transfer method is used to convert the thermal energy to run [a] gas turbine**. Ammonia gas is used as working fluid for the OTEC engine. Heat transfer is the major engineering task to be involved on the success of any efficient OTEC power plant. Conventional OTEC does the heat transfer effort on the top of the platform deck. The amount of water needed to cool the working fluid, ammonia, is enormous. There is a cold water pipe in the conventional OTEC that is used to bring the cold water from 3000 ft down to the free surface. Similarly the gas heating process, where the surface warm water is used in the evaporator, faces the similar problem. Enormous amount of heavy equipment for handling large volumes of water on the surface of floating vessel has increased the vessel size and consequently the capital cost was very high in the conventional OTEC. The platform and the subcomponents of the OTEC engine as designed have shown

**This new tech is entirely feasible as he continues that**

**[new OTEC technologies] show significant cost reduction**from 40 **up to 60% compared to the conventional OTEC. [with Annual Operating Expense down to only 3 cents per kWh ]**Table 6 below shows the estimated cost of the 100 MW OTEC powerplant with its subsea equipment and the supporting vessel. The total estimate of the capital cost is $400 million USD. Table 7 shows the cost analysis for the OTEC project from commercialization feasibility point of view. It uses 95% reliability factor with 30 year life span for the 100 MW. The interest payments are rolled into the loan until the start of the production. The electricity cost is assumed as $0.14 per KWh which **i[making it] cost effective and could be further reduced** depending on the type of loan. Significant profit is seen in the Table 7. This **shows OTEC is attractive for [commercial] applications.**

Joining UNCLOS removes the final roadblock to widespread adoption

First, by gaining the ability to claim more land

[Myers University of California](https://books.google.com/books?id=0ll_aCx_srcC&pg=PA85&lpg=PA85&dq=%22otec%22+%22unclos%22&source=bl&ots=s_ijGmJTyZ&sig=DzqXua6xR9dLYn9uIAUgqxRtsPM&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjIl8KI-5rdAhUHeKwKHbNoBJkQ6AEwC3oECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=%22otec%22%20%22unclos%22&f=false)

**Many nations [are looking at developing OTEC]** that might not have considered OTEC activities in the past may now look to the technologies againin view of the **[due to the] potential to extend their borders under UNCLOS Article 76 relating to the** definition of **continental shelf. [as] Higher oil prices and huge downside environmental implications [change economic considerations] are changing the economics of fossil fuel energy in relation to OTEC.**

[**Borgerson Council of Foreign Relations , Scott G**](https://www.unclosdebate.org/author/31/scott-g-borgerson). [**The National Interest and the Law of the Sea**](http://www.cfr.org/oceans/national-interest-law-sea/p19156) . [**Council on Foreign Relations**](https://www.unclosdebate.org/organization/30/council-foreign-relations): Washington, D.C., May 2009 (82p). [ [**More**](https://www.unclosdebate.org/citation/29/national-interest-and-law-sea) (22 quotes) ]

The United States cannot currently participate in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, which oversees ocean delineation on the outer limits of the extended continental shelf (outer continental shelf). Even though it is collecting scientific evidence to support eventual claims off its Atlantic, Gulf, and Alaskan coasts, **the U[S]nited States, without becoming party to [UNCLOS] [is prevented],**has no standing in the CLCS. This not only precludes it**from making a submission claiming the sovereign rights over the resources of potentially more than one million square kilometers of the Outer Continental Shelf, i**t also denies the United States [while denying us] any right to review or contest other claims that appear to be overly expansive, such as Russia’s in the Arctic. This is especially urgent this year, as the commission will review an influx of claims expected in May 2009, the deadline for twenty- six states to make their submissions based on the procedural clock that began ticking when they ratified the convention. (The United States would have ten years to make its claim if it were to join the convention.)

Second, by creating legal certainty for these companies

~~http://www.blue21.nl/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Artificial-Islands-in-The-Law-of-the-Sea.pdf~~

~~Of the significant ‘artificial islands’ which will be illustrated in Chapter 3 are those which will come into operation in the coming years. These fall under the heading of Ocean Floating Energy Platforms (OFEP) and include all the concepts of different forms of energy resources exploitable at sea. These generally comprise: solar islands, energy islands, floating nuclear power plants (FNPP), wind farms and OTEC devices~~

[Patrick Stothers 2018](https://sciencing.com/advantages-disadvantages-otec-8495395.html)

**Because OTEC facilities are stationary surface platforms, they are essentially considered and considered as artificial islands [that harvest natural resources], therefore, their exact location affects their legal status [is affected by] under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea treaty (UNCLOS).** According to UNCLOS, coastal nations are given 3-, 12- and 200-mile zones of varying legal authority. The amount of political autonomy among these zones varies greatly. Consequently, **[Furthermore, without UNCLOS], jurisdictional conflicts could arise based on international boundary disputes between nations.**

Without making these claims, companies refuse to develop OTEC since they could be kicked out which is why

[**Bernard Oxman, H**](https://www.unclosdebate.org/author/1442/bernard-h-oxman). "[***Statement of Bernard H. Oxman: Hearing on the Law of the Sea Convention (October 4, 2007)***](http://www.virginia.edu/colp/pdf/OxmanTestimony071004.pdf)." Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, October 4, **2007**. [ [**More**](https://www.unclosdebate.org/citation/1443/statement-bernard-h-oxman-hearing-law-sea-convention-october-4-2007) (6 quotes) ]

The Continental Shelf: There is an extensive continental margin beyond 200 miles off the coast of Alaska and elsewhere off the coast of the United States. As a party to the Convention, we will be able to submit the results of our scientific studies regarding the seaward limits of the continental margin to the Commission of experts established by the Convention. Once we are satisfied with the outcome of our exchanges with the Commission, we can exercise the right to declare limits that are final and binding on all parties to the Convention. **[Joining] will increase the certainty of our control and the willingness [of companies] of private capital to make the substantial investment required to explore and exploit areas as deemed suitable for development.**

**The Impact is a fossil fuel transition**

**The more territory we have, the more OTEC we can deploy.**

[**Gérard C. Nihous Univ of Hawaii**](http://hinmrec.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Extractable-Ocean-Thermal-Resources-2005.pdf)**, 2010**

In the first page of their text, Avery and Wu 5 recognize that there is an upper bound for continuous **OTEC operation[s]]** beyond which significant environmental effects would be incurred; they give a limit of [**create**] **190 kW of net OTEC power per square kilometer[of ocean]without details;** over 100 million km21014 m2 of tropical oceans, this would indicate an OTEC resource of 19 TW

**Huang et al 3**—**U.S. Department of Energy** (Joseph C., Hans J. Krock, Stephen K. Oney, “REVISIT OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM”, rmf)

The ocean covers more than 70.8% of the surface of the earth. A nearly equal fraction of the solar energy intercepted by the earth falls onto the ocean surface. The sun irradiates and releases an output of 380 million billion billion Watts (3.8 × 1026 Watts) and about 175 million billion (1.75 × 1017Watts) reaches the earth. Figure 1 shows the annual earth solar energy fluxes in percentile normalized by the annual total radiated solar energy that reaches the earth. However, not all these energy fluxes can be transformed into useful form of energy under present available technologies. The current world total energy consumption, as indicated in the lower right of Figure 1, is about only five thousandth of one percent (0.005%) of the solar energy flux reaching the earth. **It is estimated that the amount of thermal energy absorbed in the oceans, on an annual basis, is equivalent to at least 1000 times the total amount of energy presently consumed by human beings over the world** (Vega 1995). **If only one percent of the [potential ocean thermal] energy flux in the equatorial zone is extracted from the thermal potential capacity in the ocean alone, it can provide hundreds of times more energy than [our] total current consumption of electricity.** Due to the huge volume and high heat capacity of oceanic water, some rough calculations reveal that all the energies together in the atmosphere, including kinetic energy in hurricanes and other storms, are less than the thermal energy in the surface layer at a two and half meter depth in the ocean.

**Switching to emission-free energy saves lives as a** [**MIT Study**](http://news.mit.edu/2013/study-air-pollution-causes-200000-early-deaths-each-year-in-the-us-0829) **2013**

**The group tracked ground-level emissions from sources such as industrial smokestacks, vehicle tailpipes, marine and rail operations, and commercial and residential heating throughout the United States, and found that such air pollution causes about 200,000 early deaths each year. Emissions from road transportation are the most significant contributor, causing 53,000 premature deaths, followed closely by power generation [cause] 52,000 [premature deaths in the US each year].**

### C2 - Stopping Slavery on the Seas

[International Labour Organization](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm) 2014 estimates that there are [40 million victims of human trafficking globally](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm), which often leads to victims being sold into slavery.

**Leo** **of** [**Ateneo Law Journal**](http://ateneolawjournal.com/Media/uploads/5f356d1e9d22132d3a3ddfd2ce306124.pdf) **2016**

Migrants smuggling and **human trafficking by sea [is] the predominant mode of transporting victims** to their destination. 43 Migrant smuggling and human trafficking are [is] considered “frontier enterprise[s]”26 and are undertaken with **[because there's considered to be a “much lower”risk of detection** and arrest compared to land or air trafficking.”Of all the migrant smuggling and human trafficking routes, 40-75% make successful landfall to their destination. For instance, the International Center on Immigration Policy Development concluded that some 100,000 to 120,000 illegal migrants cross the Mediterranean annually

Unfortunately, because unlike land-based trafficking, sea-based trafficking lies outside the jurisdiction of any nation as

[Elise Karlsen, Arctic University of Norway, Sept 2015](https://munin.uit.no/bitstream/handle/10037/12490/thesis.pdf?sequence=1)

“contemporary slavery represents a great issue today, causing millions of victims. **[People] are trafficked on the High Sea left unprotected by national regulations** occurring on territorial waters and exclusive economic zone**relying therefore mainly on the UNCLOS.”**

**Fortunately, the United States is already trying to make human trafficking a primary concern**

US Leading 'Unprecedented' Global Effort to Fight Trafficking **Heather Sells 03-02-2017**

http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2017/march/u-s-leading-unprecedented-global-effort-to-fight-trafficking

**The U.S. is doubling down on the international community, hoping to leverage global [cooperation and] to fight the international epidemic of human trafficking.** Last week, IJM President Gary Haugen and other anti-trafficking activists [met with President Trump](http://www1.cbn.com/beltwaybuzz/archive/2017/02/23/trump-vows-to-end-human-trafficking-epidemic) at the White House to highlight the issue of trafficking and the campaign. **The president has promi[ing] to bring our"full force and weight" of the U.S. government to combat trafficking.**

#### Accession gives the US 2 tools to crackdown on trafficking

#### 

#### 1. Allowing Interceptions

**Tufts University**, "Chapter 6: Maritime Security, Convention on the Law of the Sea – Law of the Sea", https://sites.tufts.edu/lawofthesea/chapter-six/**Article 110** discusses the customary **rule that****warships may** exercise “**approach and visit” on the high seas** of **any ship that is suspected of** piracy, **human trafficking**, unauthorized broadcasting; is without nationality; or, “though flying a foreign flag or refusing to show its flag, the ship is, in reality, of the same nationality as the warship.~~”~~ **~~Article 111 addresses the right~~** ~~of hot pursuit,~~ **~~allowing warships of one State to follow a ship through the different maritime zones if that ship is suspected of illegal activity~~**~~. Articles related to specific types of crime are included in the following paragraphs.~~

**A US initiative brings other countries on board as well**

**(The Action Group to End Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery, “Recommendations for Fighting Human Trafficking in the United States and Abroad,” November 2008,** [**https://www.freetheslaves.net/Document.Doc?id=96**](https://www.freetheslaves.net/Document.Doc?id=96)**) /wyo-mm**

Human trafficking is an egregious violation of the human rights of women, men, and children for purposes of sexual exploitation, or forced labor as well as other forms of exploitive labor.2 As both a national and transnational crime, trafficking and modern-day slavery occur within and across borders. They affect economies, political stability, law enforce ment, and public health - particularly HI V/AIDS.Victims in the United States include U.S. citizens as well as foreign born nationals. The illicit commercialization of humanity is one of the largest criminal industries in the world, and the selling of children is the fastest growing global crime. The devastating toll of human trafficking, a form of modem-day slavery, urgently demands a renewal of American leadership [and], both at home and abroad. This global scourge offers the [US] a compelling opportunity to exercise leadership on human rights, enhance America’s image abroad, [to] seriously address transnational [crime], and advance progress on a range of issues from poverty alleviation and HI V/AIDS to corruption and violence against women.

This shows commitment and encourages other countries to do the same.

**2. Giving us an avenue to sue**

**UN 2010**, "Settlement of Disputes",, http://www.un.org/depts/los/settlement\_of\_disputes/settlement\_of\_disputes.htm

Part [15] of**[UNCLOS] requires that States Parties to the Convention to settle any dispute** between them **concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention by** peaceful means in accordance with article 2, para. 3, of the Charter of the United Nations and shall seek a solution by the means indicated in article 33, para. 1, of the Charter. Where, however, no settlement has been reached, article 286 of the Convention stipulates that the dispute be submitted at the request of any party to the dispute to **a court or tribunal** having jurisdiction in this regard. Article 287 of the Convention defines those courts or tribunals as:

* (a) The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (established in accordance with Annex VI of the Convention) including the Seabed Disputes Chamber;
* (b) The International Court of Justice;
* (c) An arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with Annex VII of the Convention;

(d) A special arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with Annex VIII for one or more of the categories of disputes specified therein.

**Accession allows the US to bring countries that fail to enforce or enact anti-human trafficking laws to court.**

This is important because

[Maritime Executive](https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/report-flag-states-need-to-act-on-human-rights#gs.wtIrNXM)

The study looked at how these flag states monitor human rights compliance on board vessels and whether or not there is any reporting procedures in place to help facilitate and demonstrate compliance. In answering these questions, the researchers covered the obligations that flag states have under **article 94 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as well as international human rights law [gives countries certain obligations to counter human trafficking] The[y] found that specific m[including] monitoring and reporting mechanisms dealing with human rights violations are lacking or absent, especially those dealing specifically with [for] violations at sea [to more effectively catch traffickers].** The report states that there is “much uncertainty due to the absence of public complaints procedures that would guarantee effective redress for human rights abuses on board vessels. Seafarers are especially vulnerable for being isolated in the ocean for long periods of time and therefore require a public, accessible and transparent procedure which ensures that they are not being exploited or left unprotected. These mechanisms should be made clear to seafarers prior to their maritime activities, both as a registration requirement and through accessible, clear and simple procedures published on relevant websites.”

These lawsuits are effective because countries don’t want to ruin their international credibility

**Hao** Duy **Phan For The Straits Times** JUL 16, 2016, https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/why-a-ruling-that-cannot-be-enforced-still-matters

The lack of an enforcement mechanism does not mean decisions of international courts and tribunals are generally ignored. On the contrary, studies have shown that **the vast majority of decisions by international courts and tribunals are implemented**. China itself has a good record in implementing decisions of the WTO's compulsory dispute- settlement system without any external enforcement.

#### The impact is ending modern-day slavery around the globe

**A report by the** [**UN Office on Drugs and Crime**](http://www.unodc.org/res/cld/bibliography/the-globalization-of-crime-a-transnational-organized-crime-threat-assessment_html/TOCTA_Report_2010_low_res.pdf) **explains that maritime trafficking has been**

**in data recently reported to UNODC, victims from at least 127 countries were detected [in]**, and **137 countries reported having detected [trafficking] victims.**

**Lazarus of SCMP 2015 continues**

**[Victims]**"Once on board, the crew **are forced to work** long hours, **up to 22 hours a day.** If they don't work hard enough, or make mistakes, **[many] are beaten [or]** with fists and clubs, or whipped with stingray tails. I've spoken to many fishermen who have seen fellow workers shot and **killed** by the captain, or thrown overboard while still alive, because they did something wrong, **or were too sick to work.**

**Trafficking leads to a lifetime of torture that’s even worse than death.**

Affirm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Human Trafficking is also linked to organized crime, and the massive migrant patterns caused by it create the conditions to generate state instability

Babatunde 14 — Abosede Omowumi Babatunde, lectures at the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, “Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime: Implications for Security in Nigeria,” The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies Volume 46, Number 1 (2014), JSTOR

*Human trafficking* also threatens *national security* in its link to *transnational organized* crime, for in *many states*, including Nigeria, international *criminal networks* that support mafia-like organizations undermine the *states sovereignty* over *particular areas*. A *growing realisation* through the 1980s and 1990s was that the *rise of transnational organized crime* is closely connected with the *weakness of states* and their *inability to control their territorial borders*.54 The *uncontrolled flow* of illegal migrants and refugees across porous borders heightens competition over scarce resources, exacerbates ethnic and sectarian tensions, and adds stress on already *weak state institutions*.55 Porous borders allow politically organized *non-state actors* access to territory and population groups that can be used for political mobilization, which in turn can lead to the emergence of *refugee warrior communities*. Refugee flows can act as conduits that regionalize and inter nationalize internal conflicts with disastrous consequences for weak states, as seen in Africa's Great Lakes region.56 The high levels of illegal migration and the failure to control territorial borders strengthen the perception of weak ness and can precipitate security challenges such as those of Boko Haram in Nigeria. The porous and ungoverned territories along Nigeria's borders with Benin, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad complicate this further. Given the emergence of *organized criminal networks* around illegal migration and the *vast amounts of money* involved, such operations erode *normal governance* and present *real threats to national sovereignty*.

~~http://www.globalization101.org/how-is-international-law-enforced/~~

~~Shaming. (Also known as the “name and shame” approach)~~ **~~Most states dislike negative publicity and will actively try to avoid it, so the threat of shaming a state with public statements regarding their offending behavior is often an effective enforcement mechanism. This method is particularly effective in the field of human rights where states, not wanting to intervene directly into the domestic affairs of another state, may use media attention to highlight violations of international law~~**~~. In turn, negative public attention may serve as a catalyst to having an international organization address the issue; it may align international grassroots movements on an issue; or it may give a state the political will needed from its populace to authorize further action.A recent example of this strategic tactic was seen in May 2010, when the U.N. named the groups most persistently associated with using child soldiers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (United Nations,~~

#### 3. Multilateral Leadership

**The US must lead a global effort to stop oceanic trafficking as The Action Group explains that**

**(The Action Group to End Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery, “Recommendations for Fighting Human Trafficking in the United States and Abroad,” November 2008,** [**https://www.freetheslaves.net/Document.Doc?id=96**](https://www.freetheslaves.net/Document.Doc?id=96)**) /wyo-mm**

Human trafficking is an egregious violation of the human rights of women, men, and children for purposes of sexual exploitation, or forced labor as well as other forms of exploitive labor.2 As both a national and transnational crime, trafficking and modern-day slavery occur within and across borders. They affect economies, political stability, law enforce ment, and public health - particularly HI V/AIDS.Victims in the United States include U.S. citizens as well as foreign born nationals. The illicit commercialization of humanity is one of the largest criminal industries in the world, and the selling of children is the fastest growing global crime. The devastating toll of human trafficking, a form of modem-day slavery, urgently demands a renewal of American leadership [and], both at home and abroad. This global scourge offers the [US] a compelling opportunity to exercise leadership on human rights, enhance America’s image abroad, [to] seriously address transnational [crime], and advance progress on a range of issues from poverty alleviation and HI V/AIDS to corruption and violence against women.

**Joining UNCLOS shows our commitment to stopping human trafficking and allows us to lead other countries**

[**Dr. Scott Borgerson Council of Foreign Relations**](http://repository.out.ac.tz/1658/1/LawoftheSea_CSR46.pdf)

In addition to the specific benefits to the national interest accrued from joining the convention, an internationally visible and successful bipartisan campaign that culminated in **the United States joining the treaty** this year could provide a springboard for a broader foreign policy agenda. Such a campaign **would** **immediately** (1) **Enhance U.S. global credibilityy by matching action to rhetoric regarding the rule of law**,. Joining this particular convention sends a powerful signal of commitment to this principle. The undeni- able semantic message of the title “Law of the Sea” and the practi- cal effect of officially becoming party to a legal regime over the vast expanse of the world’s oceans combine to reinforce the strength of this signal. (2) Convey broadly recognized legal legitimacy to U.S.-led security – arrangements, such as PSI and its counterpiracy, -narcotic, and -ter- rorism operations at sea [and]. (3) Establish the foundation for **[and build and] strengthen**ing **existing international relationships and building new partnerships**. By clearly signaling a U.S. commitment to respect the legitimate rights of other nations, while reinforcing an expectation of reciprocity, the United States can dispel suspicion and remove resistance in a global constituency. (4) Provide an array of diplomatic tools to address “creeping sov-– ereignty” and the excessive, resource-motivated claims of some coastal nations. Arbitration will allow the peaceful resolution of disputes with convention party states whether they are friends and partners, such as Canada, Australia, and the Philippines, or poten- tial competitors, such as China. When diplomacy must be supple- mented by hard power to challenge the excessive and disruptive claims of any nation, especially those of potential adversaries and nonparty states, such as Iran, Syria, and North Korea, the conven- tion will provide the United States with legal legitimacy and at least the tacit support of 156 party states.(5) Enable the United States to take a leadership position by acting within the convention to help mitigate maritime disputes between important strategic allies, such as Japan and Korea, and in strategically impor- tant regions, such as the Gulf of Aden or the South China Sea. (6)[and] expand opportunity for U.S. global

giving us credibility when we call on other nations to follow international legal standards.