

## LEGAL STATUS OF THE MARINE RESOURCES UNDER THE “CONSTITUTION OF OCEANS”

**SULE GUNES**

Middle East Technical University, Department of International Relations, Inonu Bulvari 06531, Ankara, Turkey

The purpose of this study is to provide a general view with regard to the legal regime envisaged for the marine natural resources by the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea which is perceived as the “Constitution of Oceans”. The study will involve both living and non-living resources. The status which governs the states party to this Convention in relation with natural resources will be analysed in accordance the rights recognised in variety of juridical marine areas.

One of the pillars of the study will be about the extent of the use of the states’ rights over the natural resources which falls under the sea areas such as internal waters, territorial waters, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. Whereas the other main pillar will be confined to the analysis of the regime of the sea areas beyond national jurisdiction namely the high seas and the “Area” below high seas. In terms of the analysis of the regime of the “Area”, the idea of Common Heritage of Mankind will be given a special point of attention.

Throughout the evaluation of the issues the principle of sustainable development will be a major guideline for the purposes of interpretation of the provisions of the Convention.