

General information concerning assistance from the Trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Introduction

Paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 requested “the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a Trust Fund to provide training for technical and administrative staff, and technical and scientific advice, as well as personnel, to assist developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, for the purpose of desktop studies and project planning, and preparing and submitting information under article 76 and annex II to the Convention in accordance with the procedures of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.”¹ By virtue of this General Assembly resolution, this Trust Fund was created and the Terms of reference, guidelines and rules of this Trust Fund are set out in annex II to this resolution. Sections 1, 4 and 6 of these Terms of reference, guidelines and rules were amended by General Assembly resolution 58/240 of 23 December 2003 and these amendments are set out in the annex to that resolution. For copies of these resolutions see (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/trust_fund_article76.htm).

Application for financial assistance

An application for financial assistance from the Trust Fund may be submitted by any developing State, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, who are Members of the United Nations and party to the Convention. Applications for assistance shall be made by the State concerned through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

The purpose of the financial assistance applied for should be specified. Financial assistance may be sought for the following purposes:

- (a) Training of technical and administrative staff (it should be noted that candidates should have at least the equivalent of a university degree and a person can only receive assistance from the Trust Fund for one training course);
- (b) Desktop study or other means to make an initial assessment of the nature of the continental shelf and its limits;
- (c) Working out of plans for the acquisition of necessary additional data and mapping projects;
- (d) Preparation of final submission documents;
- (e) Advisory/consultancy assistance related to the above points.

It should be noted that the data acquisition campaigns themselves are not the object of the Fund.

¹ CLCS/11 of 13 May 1999.

For information on the documentation that is required in respect of requests for assistance please refer to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Terms of reference, guidelines and rules of the Trust Fund (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/trust_fund_article76.htm).

Consideration of applications and granting of assistance

Each request for financial assistance shall be considered by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs, which acts as the secretariat of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. DOALOS engages an independent panel of experts to assist in the examination of applications and to recommend the amount of financial assistance to be given. In considering the application, DOALOS and the panel of experts are guided solely by the financial needs of the requesting developing State and availability of funds, with priority given to least developed countries and small island developing States, taking into account the imminence of pending deadlines. The Secretary-General provides financial assistance from the Fund for requests approved on the basis of the evaluation and recommendation of DOALOS on the advice of the panel of experts.

The United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules apply to the administration of the Fund. Any questions regarding payments from the Fund (e.g. reimbursement) should be addressed to the Director of DOALOS whose contact information is given below.

Applications for assistance should be made as far in advance as possible to allow sufficient time for processing.

Upon submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of information on the limits of its continental shelf pursuant to article 76 of the Convention, a coastal State that has received assistance from this Fund shall disclose this information, including the involvement of any Commission members.

Implementing office

DOALOS is the implementing office for the Fund and provides the services required for the operation of the Fund. For further information regarding this Trust Fund please write to:

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