

30
10-00593



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CHANIN BUILDING
122 E 42ND STREET, FLOOR 39, NEW YORK, N .Y. 10168
TEL: (212) 697-7620: FAX: (212) 682-3580
E-Mail: tto@un.int**

March 15, 2010

Mr. Serguei A. Tarassenko
Director
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
United Nations Headquarters
New York, N.Y. 10017

Mr. Director,

Re: Input into update of SPLOS/157

The nineteenth Meeting of States Parties decided that its bureau would facilitate an informal working group to continue consideration of the issues related to the workload of the Commission.

The Informal Working Group met on six (6) occasions to consider issues relating to the workload of the CLCS. It intends to continue those discussions and report to SPLOS/20 later this year. However, in response to the invitation in GA resolution 64/71 of 4 December 2009, the Informal Working Group requests the Secretary-General to consider its comments on these issues in the context of the update of the Note by the Secretariat, document SPLOS/157.

The Informal Working Group commends the Commission on its continuing progress on matters relating to its workload. It is grateful to those members of the Commission that participated and contributed constructively, in their personal capacity, at the fourth meeting of the Informal Working Group.

The Informal Working Group submits its comments in keeping with paragraph 53 of UNGA resolution 64/71 for consideration by the Secretariat. Many of the proposals are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The update of the Note by the Secretariat will facilitate the continuation of the work of the Informal Working Group and allow SPLOS to consider the issues in an informed manner.

The Informal Working Group expresses its ongoing appreciation for the work of the Secretary-General in supporting its consideration of these issues, and wishes to acknowledge in particular the assistance provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs.

The comments which aim to reflect proposals submitted to the Informal Working Group can be grouped into the following categories¹:

Systemic measures:

- increased number of sessions;
- increased length of sessions;
- full-time sitting of the Commission;
- increased number of Subcommissions;
- forward planning by the Commission/Subcommissions;
- achieving consistency in technical issues and procedural matters by and between Subcommissions.

Support measures:

- increased technological support;
- increased secretariat support;
- increased support from outside expertise;
- more efficient interaction and dialogue between the Commission and submitting States
- assistance from other bodies

Financing options:

- States honouring their obligation under article 2, paragraph 5, Annex II of the Convention;
- solutions to be found from existing resources
- strengthening the existing Trust Fund, including by amending its Terms of Reference;
- creating a new Trust Fund;
- assessed contributions from all States Parties; and
- regular UN budget.



Eden Charles
Coordinator, of the Informal Working Group

¹ The inclusion of proposals submitted to the Informal Working Group in this document is without prejudice to the position of individual States on these or future proposals.