

**DOALOS/UNITAR BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE
LAW OF THE SEA 20 YEARS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

Wednesday, 25 and Thursday, 26 September 2002
United Nations Headquarters, New York

INFORMATION NOTE

OBJECTIVES

The briefing will provide an overview of the developments in the dynamic field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea 20 years after the conclusion of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. At the time when the adherence to the regime established by the Convention approaches the benchmark of universality, the presentations will focus on key elements of that regime, such as the establishment of maritime zones and their delimitation, practice of coastal States, establishment of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, regime of marine living and non-living resources, protection and preservation of marine environment, marine scientific research, as well as settlement of disputes. In relation to Agenda 21 and its Chapter 17 and in the wake of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the briefing will also address the issues of ocean governance as well as of the comprehensive and coordinated approach to oceans. It will further highlight newly emerging challenges in both strengthening and developing the legal regime governing the oceans' use. A presentation on the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will serve as an example of such a recent evolution. Finally, the workshop will also offer a short overview of the role of various bodies, agencies and institutions in ocean governance.

ORGANIZATION

The workshop will consist of a series of lectures and presentations. Ample time will be provided for questions and answers on the topics under discussion.

PARTICIPANTS

The briefing is intended for all delegates from permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York, in particular those interested in the field of oceans and the law of the sea. UNITAR reserves the right to make a selection among the candidates, if necessary. The selected candidates are requested to regard their participation as a firm commitment.

RESOURCE PERSONS

The moderator of the briefing will be H.E. Mr. Felipe Paolillo, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations. Presenters will include lawyers from the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs as well as other practitioners in the field of oceans and the law of the sea.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The workshop will be conducted in English.

DATES AND VENUE

The briefing will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Wednesday, 25 and Thursday, 26 September 2002, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., in conference room 5.

REGISTRATION

Members of the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York who wish to participate in this briefing are requested to complete the attached registration form and return it to the following address:

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Registration deadline: Wednesday, 18 September 2002