



## Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations

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Excellency,

### **Thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

I write to you concerning the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. You will recall that in my letter dated 18 May 2020 I had informed you “that, in light of the situation concerning the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the States Parties of the Convention have endorsed a proposal that I made following consultations with the Bureau of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to postpone the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties [from 15 to 19 June] to a period of at least three days between 31 August to 4 September 2020, provided that a suitable conference room and conference services are available during that week”.

I have been recently informed by the Secretariat that suitable conference room and conference services are not available during that week and that alternative dates are currently being looked into. For planning purposes, the week of 24-28 August 2020 has been identified as a potential alternative, subject to the confirmed availability of conference room and conference services. I wish to also inform you that States Parties have endorsed another proposal that I have made following consultations with the Bureau and States Parties to (i) open the thirtieth Meeting on 6 July 2020 by a letter from me addressed to all States Parties and (ii) to take certain decisions of a procedural nature by a silence procedure similar to that contained in General Assembly decision 74/544.

It is my hope that this course of action will promote the efficient use of conference time during the in-person meetings of the thirtieth Meeting so that the most urgent and time sensitive items on the agenda, in particular the election of Members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, can be prioritized. Once the dates of the in-person meetings have been confirmed, my successor or I will notify you of those dates and will seek your support for the expeditious approval of the new dates of the in-person meetings by the Committee on Conference and by the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Michael Imran Kanu (SJD)**

President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties  
to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

His Excellency  
Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande  
President of the United Nations General Assembly New York