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REFERENCE: 20201027UnNvStatesParties

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations presents its compliments to Representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and has the honour to refer to the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Office of Legal Affairs is pleased to transmit attached herewith a letter dated 27 October 2020 from the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties addressed to Representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and annexed document, regarding the proposed timetable and modalities of work for the consideration of the pending items on the agenda of the thirtieth Meeting.

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration.

  
 27 October 2020

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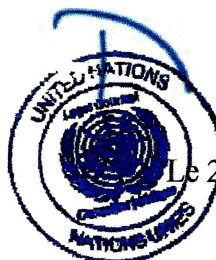
POSTAL ADDRESS-ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017  
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REFERENCE: 20201027UnNvÉtatsParties

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies présente ses compliments aux représentantes et représentants des États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer et a l'honneur de se référer à la trentième Réunion des États parties à la Convention.

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques a le plaisir de transmettre ci-joint une lettre datée du 27 octobre 2020, qui est adressée aux représentantes et représentants des États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer par le Président de la trentième Réunion des États parties, et le document annexé, concernant le calendrier et les modalités de travail proposés pour l'examen des points en suspens inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la trentième Réunion.

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies saisit cette occasion pour renouveler aux représentantes et représentants des États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer les assurances de sa très haute considération.



*Sey Sun*

Le 27 octobre 2020



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK

27 October 2020

Excellencies,

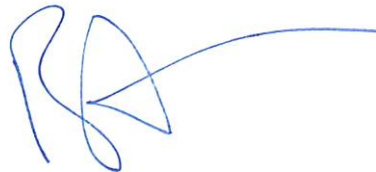
I wish to recall that, on 16 October 2020, a virtual informal session was convened to brief delegations on the pending items on the agenda of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the proposed organization of work, timetable and modalities for the consideration of these agenda items. I wish to thank all participating delegations for their expressions of support and constructive remarks.

Following the briefing, additional consultations with the Secretariat were required to factor in the availability of conference and interpretation services as well as other relevant activities taking place at the United Nations Headquarters in the coming weeks. I am pleased to provide, in the annex to this letter, the proposed timetable and modalities for the consideration of the pending items on the agenda, updated to reflect these further consultations.

The approach described during the briefing, however, has remained unchanged and relies on a combination of meetings conducted through virtual platforms with an in-person plenary meeting, as well as exchanges of documents and/or written statements. This hybrid approach reflects the aim of the Bureau to strike a balance between ensuring that time-sensitive agenda items are dealt with as soon as possible while also using the time efficiently, given the current phase of operations at the United Nations Headquarters in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the limited availability of conference rooms and the availability of virtual platforms and interpretation services.

I would welcome your written comments, if any, on the proposed timetable and modalities. Please convey your comments by 2 p.m. on Friday, 30 October 2020. I propose to proceed as outlined, on the understanding that no decisions would be adopted formally prior to the in-person plenary meeting, to be held at a date that is yet to be determined. The plenary meeting would formalize all of the work to be conducted in the proposed hybrid format and conclude the consideration of all the remaining agenda items of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties.

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



**H.E. Burhan Gafoor**

President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Representatives of States Parties  
to the United Nations Convention  
on the Law of the Sea

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

**Timeline and modalities for consideration of pending agenda items**

**Cluster I**

**From 30 October to 11 November 2020:**

Concurrent consideration of the following items and subitems through exchange of written statements:

- (i) Agenda item 11(a) (Report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2017–2018 and 2019–2020);*
- (ii) Agenda item 11(b) (Appointment of Auditor for the financial years 2021–2024);*
- (iii) Agenda item 11(d) (Amendments to the Financial Regulations of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); and*
- (iv) Agenda item 10(c) (Filling of a vacancy in the Commission).*

Proposed itemized schedule:

- **Friday, 30 October** – Concurrent circulation of statements by the Registrar of ITLOS (agenda items 11(a), (b) and (d)); and by the Chair of the Group of Eastern European States (agenda item 10(c)).
  - **Wednesday, 4 November** – COB deadline for written statements by delegations.
  - **Friday, 6 November** – COB deadline for written replies by delegations, if any.
  - **Tuesday, 10 November** – Additional statements in reply by the Registrar of ITLOS, and the Chair of the Group of Eastern European States, if any.
  - **Wednesday 11 November** – Letter by the President of the thirtieth Meeting, proposing actions and decisions based on the exchange of statements and consultations with delegations for adoption at the in-person meeting in December.
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## Cluster II

### From 12 to 23 November 2020:

Concurrent consideration of the following items and subitems through exchange of written statements:

- (i) *Agenda item 8 (Report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the Meeting of States Parties);*
- (ii) *Agenda item 9 (Information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority);*
- (iii) *Agenda item 10(a) (Information reported by the Chair of the Commission); and*
- (iv) *Agenda item 15 (Other matters) – Practice of the Secretary-General in respect of the deposit of charts and/or lists of geographical coordinates of points under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and update on trust funds and fellowships by the Secretariat.*

Proposed itemized schedule:

- **Thursday, 12 November** – Concurrent circulation of statements by the President of ITLOS (agenda item 8), Secretary-General of ISA (agenda item 9), Chair of CLCS (agenda item 10(a)), and Deputy-Director in charge of DOALOS (agenda item 15).
- **Monday, 16 November** – COB deadline for written statements by delegations.
- **Wednesday, 18 November** – COB deadline for written replies by delegations, if any.
- **Friday, 20 November** – COB deadline for replies by the President of ITLOS, Secretary-General of ISA, Chair of CLCS, and Deputy-Director in charge of DOALOS, if any.
- **Monday, 23 November** – Letter by the President of the thirtieth Meeting closing the deliberations on these items and proposing that the relevant reports, reported information and statements made be taken note of at the in-person meeting.



## Cluster III

### From 19 to 30 November 2020:

Concurrent consideration of the following agenda items through virtual informal consultations of the working group and exchange of written statements, as described in the following table.

<p><i>Agenda item 11(c) (Draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the budget period 2021–2022)</i></p> <p>Proposed itemized schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Thursday, 19 November (PM with interpretation)</b> – First round of virtual informal consultations in the Open-ended Working Group on the ITLOS budget (chaired by the President of the thirtieth Meeting).</li><li>• <b>Friday, 20 November</b> – COB deadline for written statements and proposals by delegations and consultations with the President of the thirtieth Meeting, as necessary.</li><li>• <b>Monday, 23 November (PM with interpretation)</b> – Second round of virtual informal consultations to agree on recommendations by the Open-ended Working Group on the ITLOS budget, for adoption at the in-person meeting.</li><li>• <b>Thursday, 26 November</b> – Letter by the President of the thirtieth Meeting circulating attached draft decisions, prepared by the Open-ended Working Group, as amended in view of the feedback received, for adoption at the in-person meeting.</li></ul>	<p><i>Agenda item 10(b) (Conditions of service of members of the Commission).</i></p> <p>Proposed itemized schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Friday, 20 November (AM with interpretation)</b> – First round of virtual informal consultations in the Open-ended Working Group on conditions of service of the members of the Commission (chaired by the Co-Coordinators).</li><li>• <b>Wednesday, 25 November</b> – COB deadline for written statements and proposals by delegations and consultations with the President of the thirtieth Meeting and the Co-Coordinators, as necessary.</li><li>• <b>Friday, 27 November (AM)</b> – Second round of virtual informal consultations to agree on proposals by the Open-ended Working Group on conditions of service of the members of the Commission, for adoption at the in-person meeting.</li><li>• <b>Monday, 30 November</b> – Letter by the President of the thirtieth Meeting circulating attached draft decision(s), prepared by the Working Group, as amended in view of the feedback received, for adoption at the in-person meeting.</li></ul>
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## Completion

### On 9 December 2020 (half day) or available date:

In-person plenary meeting for:

- (i) Adoption of decisions and actions taken in respect of agenda items 8, 9, 10(a), 10(b), 10(c), 11(a), 11(b), 11(c), 11(d) and 15; and
- (ii) Consideration of agenda item 14 (Reports of the Secretary-General under article 319 for the information of States parties on issues of a general nature, relevant to States parties, which have arisen with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea).