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REFERENCE: 20201111UnNvStatesParties

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

The Office of Legal Affairs is also pleased to attach herewith instructions to facilitate the exchange of written statements by delegations in the upcoming deliberations.

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.



11 November 2020

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POSTAL ADDRESS-ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
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REFERENCE: 20201111UnNvÉtatsParties

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 11 novembre 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, concernant le point 10 c) de l'ordre du jour (*Attribution du siège vacant à la Commission*) ; point 11 a) de l'ordre du jour (*Rapport sur les questions budgétaires des exercices 2017-2018 et 2019-2020*) ; point 11 b) de l'ordre du jour (*Nomination d'un commissaire aux comptes pour les exercices 2021-2024*) ; et point 11 d) de l'ordre du jour (*Amendements au Règlement financier du Tribunal international du droit de la mer*).

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques a également le plaisir de joindre des instructions visant à faciliter l'échange de déclarations écrites par les délégations lors des délibérations à venir.

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.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Seyoum'.

Le 11 novembre 2020



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

11 November 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letters dated 27 and 30 October 2020, regarding the timetable and modalities for the consideration of the pending items on the agenda of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as outlined in the annex to my letter dated 27 October 2020 (www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/documents/20201027vLetEF.pdf), which is also attached to this letter.

In accordance with the timetable and modalities in the annex, between 30 October and 11 November 2020, States Parties considered the following agenda items under “Cluster I” through an exchange of written statements: agenda item 10(c) (*Filling of a vacancy in the Commission*); agenda item 11(a) (*Report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2017–2018 and 2019–2020*); agenda item 11(b) (*Appointment of Auditor for the financial years 2021–2024*); and agenda item 11(d) (*Amendments to the Financial Regulations of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*).

Under agenda item 10(c), a statement was received from the Group of Eastern European States.

Under agenda items 11(a), (b) and (d), statements were received from the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and some delegations. An additional statement by the Registrar in response to delegations’ statements was also received.

All statements were made available via a dedicated SharePoint site for the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties (access to which was provided to delegations, as well as on the website of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/thirtiethmeetingstatesparties.htm).

I propose that the Meeting take note of the documents related to the above-mentioned agenda items and of the statements that were received.

In addition, I wish to propose the following actions and decisions based on the exchange of statements, for adoption at the in-person plenary meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for 9 December 2020:

- a) For agenda item 10(c): taking into account that the Group of Eastern European States has informed that no candidates have been identified to fill the remaining vacancy in the Commission allocated to that Group and that the Group remains seized on this issue and will continue its efforts to identify a candidate for the vacant seat in the Commission as early as possible, I propose that the thirtieth Meeting decide that the Secretary-General will circulate a call for nominations with a view to conducting a by-election for this vacant seat at the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties, provided that the President receives information from the Group of Eastern European States about potential candidates at least 14 weeks before the commencement of that Meeting and that, in the absence of such information, the Meeting would revert to the consideration of that matter under the agenda item “Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf”.
- b) For agenda item 11(a): I propose that the Meeting take note with satisfaction of the report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2017–2018 and 2019–2020 ([SPLOS/30/3](#)).
- c) For agenda item 11(b): taking into account (i) the quotations of five different audit firms relating to the appointment of an auditor for the financial years 2021–2024, provided by the Registrar of the Tribunal ([SPLOS/30/4](#), para. 3); and (ii) the proposal that BDO be appointed as the auditor for the financial years 2021-2024, as it made the lowest of the five offers, I propose that the Meeting decide to appoint BDO as auditor for the financial years 2021-2024.
- d) For agenda item 11(d): taking into account the statements received on this sub-item, I propose that the Meeting approve the amendments to the Financial Regulations of the Tribunal, as set out in the annex to [SPLOS/30/6](#), which would become effective on 1 January 2021 and apply to the financial period 2021 and subsequent financial periods, as per the proposed amendment to Regulation 14.1.

I would welcome your written comments, if any, on the proposed actions and decisions. Please convey your comments by 5 p.m. on Monday, 16 November 2020. Such comments should be sent by email to doalos@un.org (copying santosuosso@un.org). I propose to proceed, as outlined, on the understanding that the proposed actions and decisions would need to be formally adopted at the in-person plenary meeting in December. In accordance with the annex to my letter dated 27 October 2020, the consideration of the agenda items under “Cluster II” through an exchange of written statements will commence on 12 November 2020.

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 1982 United
Nations Convention on the
Law of the Sea

**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">• Thursday, 19 November (PM with interpretation) – First round of virtual informal consultations in the Open-ended Working Group on the ITLOS budget (chaired by the President of the thirtieth Meeting).• Friday, 20 November – COB deadline for written statements and proposals by delegations and consultations with the President of the thirtieth Meeting, as necessary.• Monday, 23 November (PM with interpretation) – 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.• Thursday, 26 November – 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.	<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">• Friday, 20 November (AM with interpretation) – 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-Coordiators).• Wednesday, 25 November – COB deadline for written statements and proposals by delegations and consultations with the President of the thirtieth Meeting and the Co-Coordiators, as necessary.• Friday, 27 November (AM) – 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.• Monday, 30 November – 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.
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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).

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

Instructions on the circulation of written statements by Delegations

IMPORTANT: To facilitate the efficient conduct of deliberations according to the timetable and modalities set out by the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties, delegations should submit statements concerning active agenda items only during the time-periods identified for the exchanges of written statements: see letter of 27 October 2020 by the President at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/documents/20201027NvLetEF.pdf.

Within those time-periods:

1. Delegations are kindly requested to send their statements (in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats, whenever possible) to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (doalos@un.org).
2. DOALOS will post the statement(s) on the designated SharePoint website, in the folder(s) for the relevant agenda item(s): [30MSP - Statements](#)
3. If an acknowledgment of receipt has not been received from the Division, the Delegation should presume that its statement was not received and should kindly resubmit the statement and enquire.
4. The following information should be included in both (i) the email subject line and (ii) the statement's header or title:
 - name of the Meeting
 - agenda item
 - name of the Delegation
5. For ease of record-keeping, it is strongly recommended that Delegations submit separate statements for each agenda item under which they intervene.
6. The statement should be named as follows: DateStateName_AgendaItem (e.g. 20201030StateName_Item14.pdf or 20201030StateName_Item14.doc)