

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS-ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
TELEPHONE NO. (212) 963 1234; FAX NO. (212) 963 4879

REFERENCE: 20201127UnNvStatesParties

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 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 8 (*Report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the Meeting of States Parties*), agenda item 9 (*Information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority*), agenda item 10(a) (*Information reported by the Chair of the Commission*), agenda item 11(c) (*Draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the budget period 2021–2022*) and 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 trust funds and fellowships*).

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 November 2020

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS-ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
TELEPHONE NO: (212) 963 1234; FAX NO. (212) 963 4879

REFERENCE: 20201127UnNvÉtatsParties

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 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 8) de l'ordre du jour (*Rapport du Tribunal international du droit de la mer à la Réunion des États parties*) ; point 9 de l'ordre du jour (*Informations communiquées par le Secrétaire général de l'Autorité internationale des fonds marins*) ; point 10 a) de l'ordre du jour (*Informations communiquées par le Président de la Commission*) ; point 11 c) de l'ordre du jour (*Projet de budget du Tribunal international du droit de la mer pour l'exercice 2021-2022*) ; et point 15 de l'ordre du jour (*Questions diverses – Pratique du Secrétaire général en ce qui concerne le dépôt des cartes ou des listes de coordonnées géographiques de points prévu par la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer ; et fonds de contributions volontaires et bourses*).

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.


 Le 27 novembre 2020



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

27 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 (available at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/thirtiethmeetingstatesparties.htm).

I also wish to refer to my letter dated 23 November 2020, concerning the proposed actions for agenda item 8 (*Report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the Meeting of States Parties*); agenda item 9 (*Information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority*); agenda item 10(a) (*Information reported by the Chair of the Commission*); and agenda item 15 (*Other matters*), and inviting written comments on the proposed actions by 5 p.m. on 27 November 2020.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the deliberations on these agenda items are now adjourned and will be resumed at the plenary meeting of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties in December 2020, for the proposed actions to be formally adopted. I have taken note of the comments received from one delegation with regard to agenda item 15. In this connection, I would like (a) to recall that, in my letter dated 23 November 2020, I had proposed “that the Meeting take note of the statements related to the above-mentioned agenda items that were received” and clarify that this applies not only to agenda items 8, 9 and 10(a), but also to agenda item 15, and (b) to inform that the deliberations of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties, including those conducted through an exchange of written statements, will be summarized in the report of the Meeting in accordance with practice.

I would like to also refer to agenda item 11(c) (*Draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the budget period 2021–2022*), which was considered through virtual informal consultations of the Open-ended Working Group on Financial and Budgetary Matters and an exchange of written statements.

I wish to express my gratitude to H.E. Mr. Ibrahima Toure, Vice-President of the thirtieth Meeting, for his able chairing of the two rounds of virtual informal consultations of the Working Group on 19 and 23 November 2020 on my behalf.

The report of the Vice-President on the outcome of the consultations of the Working Group included a recommendation that the *Draft Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022*, contained in his report, be circulated to States Parties with a view to adopting these decisions at the plenary meeting in December.

Consequently, I am pleased to circulate, in the annex to this letter, the *Draft Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022*. I understand that States Parties had the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Decisions* and no comments were received, and that the *Draft Decisions* reflect an amendment based on a comment from the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. I propose to table the *Draft Decisions* for adoption at the plenary meeting of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties in December 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

Annex

Draft Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022

The Meeting of States Parties,

Having considered the draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022 (SPLOS/30/5) and the addendum to the draft budget proposals (SPLOS/30/5/Add. 1),

1. *Approves* the amount of €24,155,000 as the budget of the Tribunal for 2021–2022, on the basis of annex I to document SPLOS/30/5 and in the light of the decrease of €257,400 in Section 2 “Judges’ pension scheme”, as indicated in document SPLOS/30/5/Add.1 and outlined by the Registrar in her report to the Open-Ended Working Group on Financial and Budgetary Matters;
2. *Decides that*, pursuant to regulation 5.3 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal (SPLOS/120), the contributions of States parties for each of the two years of the biennium 2021–2022 shall be determined on the basis of half of the appropriations adopted by the Meeting of States Parties for that budget period;
3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2017–2018 and 2019–2020 (SPLOS/30/3), *notes*, on the basis of that report, that the cash surplus for the financial period 2017-2018 amounted to €2,956,912 and that that amount would be surrendered and deducted from the contributions of States parties for 2021, in accordance with financial regulation 4, and *also notes* that it is no longer necessary to use parts of the 2017-2018 cash surplus to finance anticipated over-expenditures in the 2019-2020 budget period;
4. *Authorizes* the Tribunal to make transfers between appropriation sections pursuant to regulation 4.6, to the extent that that is necessary to cover over-expenditures, in the event that the Tribunal is unable to meet approved expenditures for 2019-2020 from appropriations made with respect to certain budget lines;
5. *Encourages* the Registrar to continue to manage the funds prudently and efficiently, seeking to achieve optimum utilization of the financial resources of the Tribunal;
6. *Decides* that, without prejudice to the application of the provisions of article 19 of annex VI to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect of future budgets of the Tribunal regarding the contribution to be made by the International Seabed Authority, the budget of the Tribunal for 2021-2022 would be financed by all States parties to the Convention taking into account that the European Union indicated that its agreed contribution to the budget of the Tribunal would be €110,000 for each year; and
7. *Also decides* that a floor rate of 0.01 per cent and a ceiling rate of 22 per cent is to be used in establishing the rate of assessment of States parties for the budget of the Tribunal for 2021-2022.