

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES



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

REFERENCE: 20200730UnNvStatesParties

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations presents its compliments to Permanent Missions to the United Nations 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 30 July 2020 from the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties addressed to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of States Parties to the Convention, regarding proposals on the election of Vice-Presidents and the adoption of the agenda of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties.

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

 
30 July 2020



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

30 July 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the letters of the twenty-ninth President of the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea dated 24 and 29 July 2020, concerning the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

I am honoured to be elected President of the thirtieth Meeting and would like to express my gratitude to States Parties for their confidence and trust, especially in these unprecedented and challenging circumstances. I look forward to working with all delegations in the weeks ahead.

On behalf of all States Parties, I would also like to convey our appreciation to His Excellency, Mr. Michael Imran Kanu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, for his work as President of the twenty-ninth Meeting and for successfully steering States Parties through the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Let me also express gratitude to the Vice-Presidents of the twenty-ninth Meeting, Ms. Anneli Leega Piiskop of Estonia, Mr. Sidney Gregory Kemble of the Netherlands, Mr. Luke Tang of Singapore and Mr. Carlos Mata of Uruguay.

As you are aware, through decision 30/1 of 24 July 2020, States Parties authorized the President of the thirtieth Meeting to circulate, after consultation with the Bureau, draft decisions of the Meeting of States Parties under a silence procedure regarding the election of the Vice-Presidents, the appointment of the Credentials Committee, the adoption of the agenda and of the organization of work.

In this connection, I refer to the provisional agenda of the thirtieth Meeting (SPLOS/30/L.1/Rev.1), in particular to agenda items 4 (adoption of the agenda) and 5 (election of Vice-Presidents) and hereby provide delegations with relevant background information for each item. I also propose the adoption of two separate decisions by silence procedure, pursuant to decision 30/1.

(a) "Adoption of the agenda"

The Secretariat has brought to my attention the following editorial adjustments that should be reflected in the agenda of the Meeting, in order to include documents reflecting recent developments, which were issued after the publication of the provisional agenda:

- Under agenda item 10(a) (*Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf: Information reported by the Chair of the Commission*), the following new reference documents should be added: [SPLOS/30/10/Add.1](#) and [SPLOS/30/10/Add.2](#);

- Under agenda item 13 (*Election of seven members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*), the following reference documents should be added: [SPLOS/30/8/Add.1](#) and [SPLOS/30/CRP.1](#); and
- Under 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*), the following reference document should be added: [A/74/350](#).

The provisional agenda updated accordingly is attached for your ease of reference and I propose that this provisional agenda be adopted.

Accordingly, **the proposal to adopt the provisional agenda is placed under a silence procedure until 2.00 pm, Wednesday, 5 August 2020.**

Any objection to the above proposal should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale addressed to me, with a clear indication of the proposal which the objection(s) refer(s) to. Such correspondence should be sent by email to doalos@un.org (cc to santosuosso@un.org).

I would like to recall that, in the practice of the Meeting of States Parties, the order of items on the provisional agenda is without prejudice to the order in which these items will be discussed. I will address the organization of work for the thirtieth Meeting in a separate letter which I will circulate, after consultations with the Bureau, following its establishment.

(b) "Election of Vice-Presidents"

I have the privilege of informing you that I have received, through the Secretariat, the following nominations:

- For the seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States: Mr. Oleksiy Ilnytskyi (Ukraine);
- For the seat allocated to Group of Latin American and Caribbean States: Mr. Edgar Daniel Leal Matta (Guatemala); and
- For the seat allocated to the Group of Western European and Other States: Mr. Cary Scott-Kemmis (Australia).

I propose that each of the above-mentioned candidates be elected as Vice-President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties.

Accordingly, **the proposal to elect Mr. Oleksiy Ilnytskyi, the proposal to elect Mr. Edgar Daniel Leal Matta, and the proposal to elect Mr. Cary Scott-Kemmis as Vice-Presidents of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties are placed under a silence procedure until 2.00 pm, Wednesday, 5 August 2020.**

Any objection to any of the three proposals above should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale addressed to me, with a clear indication of the proposal which the objection(s) refer(s) to. Such correspondence should be sent by email to doalos@un.org (cc to santosuosso@un.org).

In this connection, I would like to emphasize the importance of having a complete Bureau representing each of the regional groups, with whom I can consult on the conduct and progress of work. I would like to urge the Group of African States to continue consultations and inform me, through the Secretariat, of their nomination as soon as possible.

Finally, I wish to address agenda item 6 (appointment of the Credentials Committee). It is my pleasure to inform you that I have received, through the Secretariat, the following nominations:

- For the seat allocated to the Group of Asia-Pacific States: China and Myanmar; and
- For the seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States: Russian Federation.

In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of States Parties to the fact that, given the logistical limitations imposed by preventive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to ensure the timely conduct of the election of seven members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, a meeting of the Committee **is tentatively scheduled for 20 August 2020**, prior to the elections. The Committee should be established well in advance of that date. Therefore, I wish to urge the Group of African States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States to continue consultations and inform me, through the Secretariat, of their nominations as soon as possible.

In view of the pending nominations, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee will be conducted at a later stage.

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

Permanent Representatives to the
United Nations of States Parties to
the 1982 United Nations Convention
on the Law of the Sea

Annex

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the thirtieth Meeting by the President of the twenty-ninth Meeting.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Election of the President.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents.
6. Appointment of the Credentials Committee.
7. Organization of work.
8. Report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the Meeting of States Parties ([SPLOS/30/2](#)).⁺
9. Information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority.
10. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf:
 - (a) Information reported by the Chair of the Commission ([SPLOS/30/10](#), [SPLOS/30/10/Add.1](#) and [SPLOS/30/10/Add.2](#));⁺
 - (b) Conditions of service of members of the Commission ([SPLOS/30/11](#));⁺
 - (c) Filling of a vacancy in the Commission.
11. Consideration of administrative and budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea:
 - (a) Report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2017–2018 and 2019–2020 ([SPLOS/30/3](#));⁺
 - (b) Appointment of Auditor for the financial years 2021–2024 ([SPLOS/30/4](#));⁺
 - (c) Draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the budget period 2021–2022 ([SPLOS/30/5](#));⁺
 - (d) Amendments to the Financial Regulations of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ([SPLOS/30/6](#)).⁺
12. Report of the Credentials Committee.
13. Election of seven members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ([SPLOS/30/7](#),⁺ [SPLOS/30/8](#), [SPLOS/30/8/Add.1](#), ~~and [SPLOS/30/9](#)~~ and [SPLOS/30/CRP.1](#)⁺).
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 ([A/74/350](#) and [A/75/70](#) ~~and [A/75/xxx](#)~~⁺).
15. Other matters ([SPLOS/30/12](#)).⁺