

**Contribution to the report of the Secretary-General
on oceans and the law of the sea**

Judicial work

1. *The M/T "Heroic Idun" (No. 2) Case (Marshall Islands/Equatorial Guinea)* (Case No. 32) is pending before a Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the "Tribunal"). On 25 July 2024, the President of the Special Chamber adopted an order fixing the time limits for the submission of a reply and a rejoinder. By order dated 13 May 2025, the President of the Special Chamber fixed 6 October 2025 as the date for the opening of the oral proceedings. *The "Zheng He" Case (Luxembourg v. Mexico)* (Case No. 33) is pending before the Tribunal. On 27 July 2024, the Tribunal delivered its order concerning a request for the prescription of provisional measures. On 8 August 2024 and 3 February 2025, the President of the Tribunal issued orders regarding the time limits for the submission of a memorial and a counter-memorial.

2. *Case No. 32.* This case relates to the dispute between the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea concerning the *M/T "Heroic Idun"* and her crew. On 27 April 2023, the Tribunal adopted an order constituting a special chamber of five judges to hear the case, in accordance with the request of the parties. On 19 May 2023, the President of the Special Chamber adopted an order fixing 20 November 2023 as the time limit for the filing of the memorial of the Marshall Islands and 20 May 2024 as the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Equatorial Guinea. By order of 16 November 2023, the President of the Special Chamber extended the time limits for the submission of the memorial and the counter-memorial to 18 December 2023 and 15 July 2024, respectively. The memorial and the counter-memorial were filed within the time limits so prescribed. On 25 July 2024, the President of the Special Chamber adopted an order fixing 25 November 2024 as the time limit for the filing of the reply of the Marshall Islands and 24 March 2025 as the time limit for the filing of the rejoinder of Equatorial Guinea. The reply and rejoinder were filed within the time limits so prescribed. By order dated 13 May 2025, the President of the Special Chamber fixed 6 October 2025 as the date for the opening of the oral proceedings.

3. *Case No. 33.* By an application dated 3 June 2024 and filed with the Registry of the Tribunal on 4 June 2024, Luxembourg instituted proceedings against Mexico in a dispute regarding the vessel "*Zheng He*", a dredger flying the flag of Luxembourg. On 7 June 2024, Luxembourg submitted a request to the Tribunal for the prescription of provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the Convention. On 3 July 2024, Mexico filed its statement in response. Public hearings were held on 11 and 12 July 2024.

4. The Tribunal delivered its order concerning the request for the prescription of provisional measures on 27 July 2024. In its order, the Tribunal found that "a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention appears *prima facie* to have existed between the Parties on the date of the institution of the proceedings on the merits." It also noted that "the Applicant has invoked a number of provisions of the Convention as affording a basis on which *prima facie* the Tribunal's jurisdiction over the dispute submitted to it might be founded" and recalled that, "at this stage of the proceedings, it need only satisfy itself that at least one of those provisions appears

prima facie to afford such a basis". In this regard, the Tribunal considered that "article 131 of the Convention appears *prima facie* to afford a basis on which its jurisdiction might be founded". The Tribunal concluded that *prima facie* it has jurisdiction over the dispute submitted to it. The Tribunal also considered that "the rights claimed by Luxembourg in the present case on the basis of article 131 of the Convention are plausible." On the basis of the factual information and legal arguments presented by the parties, the Tribunal considered, however, that "there is at present no urgency, in the sense that there is no real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to the rights claimed by Luxembourg." The Tribunal concluded that the circumstances "are not such as to require the exercise of its power to prescribe provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the Convention."

5. With regard to the continuation of the proceedings in the case, by order dated 8 August 2024, the President of the Tribunal fixed 10 February 2025 and 11 August 2025 as the time limits for the filing of the memorial by Luxembourg and the counter-memorial by Mexico, respectively. By order dated 3 February 2025, the President of the Tribunal extended the time limits for the submission of the memorial and the counter-memorial to 24 March 2025 and 3 November 2025, respectively. Luxembourg filed its memorial within the extended time limit.

Organisation of the Tribunal

6. On 18 September 2024, Ms Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Chile) was re-elected Registrar by the Members of the Tribunal for a term of five years. On 9 April 2025, the Members of the Tribunal re-elected Mr Antoine Ollivier (France) Deputy Registrar for a term of five years.

Capacity-building

7. Since 1997, the Tribunal has run an internship programme for students of law, international relations, public relations, political science, library science and translation. Since 2007, with the support of the Nippon Foundation, the Tribunal has organized a capacity-building and training programme on dispute settlement under the Convention. Just under 550 individuals from 129 States are part of the ITLOS alumni network, including more than 290 women. Since 2007, the Tribunal has also hosted the four-week Summer Academy of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea. In September 2021, the Tribunal established a Junior Professional Officer ("JPO") programme for young professionals to serve in the Legal Office of the Tribunal's Registry, or in other departments of the Registry, as necessary. On 1 December 2022 and 7 February 2024, memoranda of understanding concerning the JPO programme were signed by the Tribunal and the Government of China and the Government of the Republic of Korea, respectively. Pursuant to the memorandum of understanding between the Tribunal and the Government of China, a JPO was appointed on 1 July 2024 for a period of one year. A further capacity-building programme, in the form of a series of workshops for legal advisers, was established in September 2022 at the seat of the Tribunal in Hamburg. The purpose of the workshops, funded by the Republic of Korea, is to familiarize legal advisers, in particular from developing countries, with the Convention's dispute-settlement mechanisms and provide insight into the procedure and practice of the Tribunal. Three workshops were organized so far. The third workshop was held in September 2024, designed for legal advisers of Latin American and Caribbean States. A fourth workshop, designed for legal advisers from African States, will be held in September 2025. On 28 March 2025, the Tribunal and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) co-hosted a workshop at the IMO headquarters in London on the arrest of vessels and flag State responsibilities

regarding ship registration. From 4 to 6 May 2024, the Tribunal organized a regional workshop in Hanoi (Viet Nam) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam. The workshop was attended by representatives of States from the region.