



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations

TEL: (212) 688 1656
FAX: (212) 688 4924

336 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

6 July 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letters dated 11 May and 23 June 2020, concerning the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Further to the proposal contained in my letter dated 23 June, to which no objection was received, as well as in view of the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 29 June 2020 convening the thirtieth Meeting, I hereby declare, in my capacity as President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties, the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties open as of today.

I am also pleased to attach a draft decision that would allow the thirtieth Meeting to take decisions by the silence procedure similar to that contained in General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020, entitled "Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic".

It is recalled in this regard that: (i) decisions taken by the thirtieth Meeting pursuant to the silence procedure would concern, in particular, the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the thirtieth Meeting, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and the adoption of the agenda and of the organization of work; (ii) the silence procedure would not apply to the election of Members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; and (iii) the adoption of the proposed silence procedure would not amount to an amendment to the relevant rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.4). All decisions adopted by the silence procedure would be taken note of by the thirtieth Meeting at its first in-person plenary meeting.

The draft decision will be deemed to be adopted by the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties if no objections are received by the Secretariat by 5:00 p.m. on 9 July 2020. Objections to the draft decision should be done in a letter or a note verbale addressed to the President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties. Such correspondence should be sent in an email to doalos@un.org (cc to: santosuosso@un.org).

I seize this opportunity to also recall that, in accordance with the proposal contained in my letter dated 23 June 2020, if the draft decision is adopted, on 10 July 2020, I will circulate another letter on the election of the President of the thirtieth Meeting.

In terms of the ongoing preparations for the thirtieth Meeting, reference is made to the note verbale of the Secretary-General, dated 29 June 2020. As mentioned in that note verbale, the Secretary-General will circulate in due course further notifications on the matter.

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

States Parties are also reminded to complete their consultations and submit the required nominations concerning the Vice-Presidents and members of the Credentials Committee of the thirtieth Meeting as expeditiously as possible.

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



Michael Imran Kanu (SJD)

President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties
to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Annex

Draft decision

Procedure for taking decisions of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention the Law of the Sea,

Noting with concern the situation related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19,

Authorizes the President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties and the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties, where, in his or her view, a plenary meeting of the Meeting of States Parties is not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, to circulate, after consultation with the Bureau, draft decisions of the Meeting of States Parties under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours,

Decides that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties shall take note of the decision at its first in-person plenary meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allow, and that this decision on the procedure for taking of decisions of the Meeting of States Parties shall be in effect until the first plenary meeting of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties.

Decides further that the subsidiary bodies of the Meeting of States Parties may apply mutatis mutandis the procedure set out above.