

# **Thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

New York, 12 to 16 June 2023, Conference Room 3

## Information for participants

The thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be held in New York from 12 to 16 June 2023 (see [General Assembly resolution 77/248 of 30 December 2022](#), paragraph 61).

### ***Officers of the Meeting***

In accordance with Rule 19 (Election of officers) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.5](#)), “[t]he Meeting of States Parties shall elect from among the representatives of States Parties participating in the Meeting the following officers: a President and four Vice-Presidents, one from each region, excluding the region of the President...”. On the basis of the established system of rotation, it is the turn of the Group of Eastern European States to nominate a candidate for the office of President of the thirty-third Meeting.

### ***Secretariat***

The Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, carries out the secretariat functions for the Meeting of States Parties (Room DC2-0450, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, contact: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org)).

### ***Provisional agenda and other documents***

The provisional agenda for the thirty-third Meeting is contained in document [SPLOS/33/L.1/Rev.1](#). The provisional agenda and all other documents of the thirty-third Meeting are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>) or on the website of the Division as soon as they are issued ([www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting\\_states\\_parties/thirtythirdmeetingstatesparties.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/thirtythirdmeetingstatesparties.htm)).

### ***Credentials***

Scanned copies of credentials, as well as other communications containing the names of representatives of States Parties, should be submitted through the online e-Credentials module (available at [edelegate.un.int](http://edelegate.un.int)). Original credentials should be transmitted to the

Secretariat, as soon as possible and no later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the Meeting on **Monday, 12 June 2023**.

In conformity with the understanding reached by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties (see [SPLOS/263](#), paragraph 101), credentials should cover the period from 12 to 16 June 2023 and, to the extent practicable, also thereafter until the convening of the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties.

Further information regarding the submission of credentials is contained in the Notification dated 5 April 2023, available in [English](#) and [French](#).

### ***Observers***

Observers are invited to transmit to the Secretariat the names of the representatives who will form part of their delegation, as soon as possible, by letter or note verbale (email: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org), with original hard copy to follow) as soon as possible and preferably no later than 15 June 2023.

### ***List of Speakers***

According to the practice of the Meeting of States Parties:

(1) No preliminary lists of speakers are maintained by the Secretariat. Delegations wishing to speak under an agenda item may do so by requesting the floor when the deliberations on that item are opened.

(2) The Meeting does not have a segment devoted to general statements. Delegations wishing to make statements of a general nature are encouraged to do so under the agenda item entitled "Report 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" (provisional agenda item 14).

### ***Right of reply***

Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure provides that the President may accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech delivered after the list of speakers has been declared closed makes this desirable.

At the twenty-fourth Meeting, States Parties decided to establish a practice, based on the procedures and practices of other bodies, in particular the General Assembly, according to which the number of interventions in the exercise of the right of reply would be limited to two per

agenda item, the first no longer than 10 minutes and the second no longer than 5 minutes.

### ***eStatements***

Written statements and documents from the Meeting will be posted during the duration of the Meeting on a dedicated “eStatements” section of the UN Journal (this section will be unavailable after the Meeting is adjourned). Delegations are requested to provide a copy of their statement by e-mail to [eStatements@un.org](mailto:eStatements@un.org), in both PDF and WORD, well in advance of the Meeting, but no later than two hours before the Meeting begins, indicating the title and date of the Meeting, the agenda item and the name and delegation of the speaker. If the statement is only for interpreters and not for posting on eStatements, kindly indicate this clearly in the subject line.

For assistance with the publishing of statements and other services for this session please contact the conference officer in the meeting room or email [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org).

### ***Side events***

Expressions of interest to hold side events during the Meeting should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat, no later than **8 June 2023**, bearing in mind that there will be a limited number of time slots available for side events during the lunch-breaks, and very limited conference room availability. For this purpose, an email should be sent with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred date for the event to the following address: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org). The subject of the message should specify: “Side event: Meeting of States Parties.” The Division will provide all necessary details, including the costs associated with the holding of such side-events.

### ***UN Grounds Passes for Intergovernmental Organizations with General Assembly observer Status***

Intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly should communicate their intention to attend the Meeting directly to the Protocol and Liaison Service (email: [unprotocol@un.org](mailto:unprotocol@un.org)) by 9 June 2023, with a copy to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea ([doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org)). A template letter for this purpose is provided below. Delegations should follow the same procedure as Member States to obtain UN grounds passes, by using the online e-Registration system via the eDelegate Portal at <https://edelegate.un.int>.

Intergovernmental organizations without an office in New York or have not enrolled in the eRegistration system must submit a form SG.6 for

each member of the delegation for issuance of grounds passes for temporary meetings, together with an official nomination letter (stamped and signed by the head of the organization) to the Protocol and Liaison Service (email: [unprotocol@un.org](mailto:unprotocol@un.org)), by 7 June 2023. The official letter must also include a name and email address of a focal point to receive the registration approval.

The SG.6 form can be downloaded from the website of the Protocol and Liaison Service at: [www.un.org/dgacm/sites/www.un.org.dgacm/files/Documents\\_Protocol/sg.6\\_8-05-e.doc](http://www.un.org/dgacm/sites/www.un.org.dgacm/files/Documents_Protocol/sg.6_8-05-e.doc). For more information on the Protocol and Liaison Service, please visit: [www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings](http://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings).

Upon presentation of the accreditation approvals, representatives of intergovernmental organizations are to collect their United Nations grounds passes directly from the United Nations Pass Office at 320 East 45th Street. An official document with photograph (e.g., passport) identifying the representative must be presented at that time. Representatives without grounds passes will not be able to access the United Nations Headquarters compound.

***UN Grounds Passes for other organizations, entities and NGOs***

Representatives from organizations and entities other than those listed above, should contact the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org) (with copy to [santosuosso@un.org](mailto:santosuosso@un.org)).

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**Template of letter to the United Nations Protocol  
and Liaison Service**

**[Letterhead of the Intergovernmental Organization]**

[Date]

Dear Ms. Kania,

Pursuant to paragraph 61 of General Assembly resolution 77/248 of 30 December 2022 and further to the notification dated 5 April 2023, which was sent by the Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations, we hereby inform you that the [official name of the organization] wishes to attend the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which will take place in New York from 12 to 16 June 2023.

The [official name of the organization] will be represented by Mr. / Ms. [full name of the representative, which should be consistent with the name in his/her official identification document, e.g., passport] at the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance in issuing a United Nations grounds pass to the above representative(s) for the duration of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

[signature, name and title of the head of the organization]

[official name of the organization]

[official seal of the organization]

Ms. Beatrix Kania  
Chief of Protocol  
Protocol and Liaison Service  
Att. Ms. Wai Tak Chua Room S-0201  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
Fax: 1-212-963-1921

cc: Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea,  
Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations