

# United Nations Nations Unies

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “Convention”) and has the honour to invite nominations with respect to two vacant seats in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the “Commission”), namely one seat for members of the Commission from the Group of Eastern European States and one seat for members of the Commission from the Group of Western European and other States, respectively, for a term ending on 15 June 2028.

The period for the nomination of candidates will open on 12 February 2025 and will close on 12 May 2025 at midnight (EST).

## *Vacancies in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf*

On 29 January 2025, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, informing the Secretariat of the resignation of Mr. Harald Brekke, a member of the Commission nominated by Norway and elected by the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties for a term of five years, from 16 June 2023 to 15 June 2028 (SPLOS/32/15). It is recalled that pursuant to the *Arrangement for the allocation of seats on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf*, approved by the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties on 26 June 2009 (SPLOS/201), Mr. Brekke was elected to fill a seat allocated to the Group of Western European and other States.

It is also recalled that another seat, allocated to the Group of Eastern European States, has remained vacant. The resumed thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties decided that, should the President of the Meeting receive from the Group of Eastern European States information about potential candidates no less than 14 weeks prior to the commencement of the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties, the Secretary-General would circulate a call for nominations, with a view to conducting elections at the thirty-fifth Meeting, with the deadline for nominations falling on 17 March 2025 (SPLOS/34/15, para. 14). In light of the vacancy that arose due to the resignation of Mr. Brekke and the need to conduct a by-election at the thirty-fifth Meeting, the nomination for the seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States that remains to be filled shall be open as outlined in the section “Procedure of nomination”, below.

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, “[e]lections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters.” In addition, pursuant to rule 72 (*By-elections*) of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.5), “[i]f the office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant, the Meeting of States Parties shall, in accordance with rule 71 [*Elections of the members of the Commission*], elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor’s term.”



Therefore, a by-election to fill the recent vacancy will be held at the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, scheduled to be convened from 23 to 27 June 2025. An election for the other vacant seat on the Commission for the same term will also be held on this occasion.

### *Call for nominations*

It is recalled that pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention, “[a]t least three months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties, inviting the submission of nominations, after appropriate regional consultations, within three months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated and shall submit it to the States Parties.”

The Secretary-General hereby invites States Parties to the Convention to submit nominations with respect to two vacant seats in the Commission, namely one seat for members of the Commission from the Group of Eastern European States and one seat for members of the Commission from the Group of Western European and other States, respectively, with a view to filling these vacancies at the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties.

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention, members of the Commission “shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography, elected by States Parties to [the] Convention from among their nationals, having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, who shall serve in their personal capacities”.

It is recalled that the Presidents of the thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth Meetings of States Parties emphasized the importance of ensuring full and effective participation and equal opportunities at all levels for women in institutions relevant under the Convention, in order to achieve gender equality, as recognized in Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (see SPLOS/31/13, para. 15; SPLOS/32/15, para. 73; SPLOS/33/15, para. 104; and SPLOS/34/12, para. 115). States Parties are thus encouraged to give due regard to the desirability of addressing the gender imbalance in the Commission and to consider nominating female experts, with a view to promoting gender balance in the Commission.

### *Procedure of nomination*

As indicated above, the period for the nomination of candidates for election of members of the Commission will open on 12 February 2025 and will close on 12 May 2025 at midnight (EST). Nominations made before 12 February 2025 or after 12 May 2025 will not be accepted.

Following the end of the nomination period, the Secretary-General will prepare, in alphabetical order, a list of all the persons thus nominated. The list will then be submitted to States Parties.

Nominations must indicate the name of the candidate and be accompanied by a statement of qualifications in the fields of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

The statement of qualifications should not exceed 400 words; however, the nominating State may additionally submit a more comprehensive *curriculum vitae* for publication on the web site of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs. Nominations must be addressed to:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations  
 c/o Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
 Office of Legal Affairs  
 United Nations DC2-0450  
 New York, NY 10017

The statement of qualifications of the candidate should also be transmitted electronically in MS Word format to: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org).

*Expenses of members while in performance of Commission duties – an undertaking by nominating States*

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention, “the State Party which submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission shall defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties”. In addition to defraying the costs associated with relevant travel and subsistence allowance, this may also include appropriate life, medical and other forms of insurance covering the period of service.

The twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties “urged States parties that would nominate candidates for future elections of members of the Commission to formally undertake to support their candidates in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention. [...] Such an undertaking could be provided in the form of a note verbale that would accompany the nomination of a candidate to the Commission and would be brought to the attention of the Meeting of States Parties at the time of the election of the members of the Commission” (SPLOS/303, paragraph 79).

Moreover, the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties appealed to States “to ensure the full participation of the members of the Commission nominated by them in the work of the Commission, including by not scheduling conflicting activities for those members during the sessions of the Commission” (SPLOS/303, paragraph 80).

In this connection, it is recalled that the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties took note of the “changes to the pattern of annual meetings in New York whereby, starting in 2025, the Commission would meet for three sessions of five weeks each, including four weeks of plenary meetings, complemented by increased intersessional work” (SPLOS/34/12, paras. 56 and 69). It is further recalled that, the General Assembly approved the convening by the Secretary-General of the sessions of the Commission in 2025 according to this pattern (A/RES/79/144, para. 101).

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea the assurances of his highest consideration.

  
11 February 2025 