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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 21 July 2020 from the President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties addressed to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of States Parties to the Convention regarding a revised proposal on the "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 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.

  
 21 July 2020



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

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21 July 2020

Excellencies,

Further to my letter dated 9 July 2020 and following further consultations, I wish to inform you that I am circulating attached herewith a revised draft decision on the “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”.

I wish to recall that the draft decision aims at allowing the thirtieth Meeting to take certain decisions by a 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”.

**The draft decision attached to this letter 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 24 July 2020.** Objections to the draft decision should be transmitted 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](mailto:doalos@un.org) (cc to: [santosuosso@un.org](mailto:santosuosso@un.org)).

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**

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

Representatives of States Parties to the  
1982 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 to circulate, after consultation with the Bureau, draft decisions of the Meeting of States Parties under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours regarding the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the thirtieth Meeting, the appointment of the Credentials Committee and the adoption of the agenda and of the organization of work,*

*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 Credentials Committee of the Meeting of States Parties may apply mutatis mutandis the procedure set out above.*