

REFERENCE: MSP-33RES.N.2023.LOS (Notification – Meeting of States Parties)

**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea  
Montego Bay, 10 December 1982**

**Resumption of the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations communicates the following, pursuant to rule 5 (*Notification*) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.5](#)):

The resumed thirty-third Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be held in New York on 28 November 2023, in Conference Room 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for the purpose of filling seats in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf allocated to the members of the Commission from Eastern European States.

At the opening of the resumed thirty-third Meeting, an item entitled, “Election of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf” will be proposed by the President of the Meeting for inclusion in the agenda adopted at the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties ([SPLOS/33/1](#)).

The list of candidates nominated for election to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf will be contained in the note by the Secretary-General, which will be issued as [SPLOS/33/18](#) following the end of the period for the nomination of candidates on 6 October 2023.

Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that “[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. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Commission shall be those nominees who obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting. Not less than three members shall be elected from each geographical region.”

Given the requirement concerning the quorum, participation of all States Parties is of utmost importance.

Details concerning the conduct of the elections, for the approval of the Meeting, will be contained in the note by the Secretary-General, which will be issued as [SPLOS/33/17](#) in due course.

### *Credentials*

The attention of the States Parties to the Convention is drawn to rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure (*Submission of credentials*). It is further recalled, in this regard, that on 14 June 2023, the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties approved the report of the Credentials Committee. It also accepted, based on an oral report by the Chair of the Committee, credentials and information concerning the appointment of representatives received after the Committee held its meeting on 13 June 2023. The Meeting approved credentials and information concerning the appointment of representatives on the understanding that the credentials of representatives to the thirty-third Meeting would continue to be valid, in accordance with rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure, until the convening of the thirty-fourth Meeting, and on the understanding that, were there to be a resumed thirty-third Meeting, the Committee would be able to resume its consideration of the credentials of representatives of States Parties (see [SPLOS/33/11](#) and [SPLOS/33/15](#), para. 12).

States Parties that have not submitted credentials of representatives to the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties, or that may need to update those credentials, are kindly requested to submit original credentials to the Secretariat (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, room DC2 0450, United Nations, New York, NY 10017), duly signed by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any person authorized by them, as soon as possible.

A scanned copy of the credentials, as well as other communications containing the names of representatives to the Meeting (such as letters and notes verbales from the permanent mission), should be submitted through the online e-Credentials module, which can be accessed through the e-deleGATE portal ([edelegate.un.int](https://edelegate.un.int)).

The Secretary-General also wishes to remind States Parties that had only provided provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the thirty-third Meeting, to transmit formal credentials to the Secretariat as soon as possible (for a list of these States Parties, see paragraph 5 of the report of the Credentials Committee of the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties ([SPLOS/33/11](#)), as well as paragraph 11 of the report of the thirty-third Meeting ([SPLOS/33/15](#))).

### *Documents*

All documents concerning the current and past Meetings are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<https://documents.un.org>) as well as at [www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting\\_states\\_parties/meeting\\_states\\_parties.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/meeting_states_parties.htm).

   
5 September 2023