

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**VIDEO MESSAGE FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA**

Hamburg, 25 September 2026

The ocean – like the air we breathe and the land beneath our feet – is vital to our societies.

It is a source of sustenance.

A highway for trade.

And the very lifeblood of our global ecosystem.

For three decades, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has helped nations solve international disputes peacefully –

Contributing to efforts to conserve and sustainably use this vast domain.

The cases it hears touch on critical issues, from maritime boundaries, to sustainable fisheries, to seabed activities.

Together, these rulings serve to interpret and apply the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

And demonstrate the role and power of international law.

The Tribunal's historic advisory opinion in 2024 affirmed that States must protect the marine environment from the impacts of climate change.

And as recent events have shown, the Law of the Sea has a defining role to play in international peace and security.

The ocean covers more than 70 per cent of our planet.

And how we govern it is a crucial test of international cooperation.

I congratulate the Tribunal on its 30th anniversary and thank you for your service.

Together, let us protect the seas we share – for peace, for the planet, and for generations to come.

Thank you.
