

**INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA**



**YEAR 2026**

16 January 2026

**THE “ZHENG HE” CASE**

**(LUXEMBOURG v. MEXICO)**

**ORDER**

The President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Having regard to article 27 of the Statute of the Tribunal,

Having regard to article 59 of the Rules of the Tribunal,

Having regard to the Orders of the President of the Tribunal of 8 August 2024, 3 February 2025, 30 October 2025 and 12 December 2025,

*Makes the following Order:*

1. Whereas, pursuant to the Order of 8 August 2024, the President of the Tribunal fixed 10 February 2025 and 11 August 2025 as the time limits for the filing, respectively, of the Memorial of Luxembourg and the Counter-Memorial of Mexico;

2. Whereas, pursuant to the Order of 3 February 2025, the President extended to 24 March 2025 and 3 November 2025 the time limits for the filing, respectively, of the Memorial of Luxemburg and the Counter-Memorial of Mexico; and whereas the Memorial of Luxembourg was filed within the time limit thus extended;
3. Whereas, pursuant to the Order of 30 October 2025, the President extended to 15 December 2025 the time limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of Mexico;
4. Whereas, pursuant to the Order of 12 December 2025, the President extended to 19 January 2026 the time limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of Mexico;
5. Whereas, by a joint letter dated 14 January 2026, received by the Registry of the Tribunal on 15 January 2026, the Agent of Luxembourg and the Agent of Mexico stated that "the Parties have agreed to respectfully request the Tribunal for an eight-week extension" of the time limit fixed for the submission of the Counter-Memorial of Mexico to 16 March 2026;
6. Whereas, in the same letter, the Agents of the Parties informed the Tribunal that the request is made "in accordance with ... the Letter of Understanding formalized on 28 October 2025 by the Parties, and to allow the full completion" of the road map "to achieve a complete and definitive solution to the situation of the vessel *Zheng He*";
7. Being satisfied that there is adequate justification for the request for an extension of the time limit;

THE PRESIDENT

Taking into account the agreement of the Parties,

*Extends the time limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of Mexico to 16 March 2026;*

*Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision.*

Done in English and in French, both texts being equally authoritative, in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, this sixteenth day of January, two thousand and twenty-six, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Tribunal and the others transmitted to the Government of Luxembourg and to the Government of Mexico, respectively.



Tomas HEIDAR  
President



Ximena HINRICHES OYARCE  
Registrar