

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA



YEAR 2026

16 March 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 105 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, 12 December 2025 and 16 January 2026,

*Makes the following Order:*

1. Whereas, by an Application dated 3 June 2024 and filed with the Registry of the Tribunal on 4 June 2024, Luxembourg instituted proceedings against Mexico in a dispute regarding the vessel “Zheng He”;
2. 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;

3. 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;

4. 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;

5. 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;

6. Whereas, pursuant to the Order of 16 January 2026, the President extended to 16 March 2026 the time limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of Mexico;

7. Whereas, by a joint letter dated 13 March 2026 and received by the Registry of the Tribunal on 16 March 2026, the Parties stated that, “on 28 October 2025 and following constructive bilateral exchanges, they formalized a Letter of Understanding through exchange of notes in order to achieve a mutually satisfactory solution regarding the situation of the vessel *Zheng He*”; and whereas a copy of the Letter of Understanding was attached to the aforementioned joint letter;

8. Whereas, in the joint letter, the Parties requested the Tribunal, “pursuant to Article 105, paragraph 2, of the Rules of the Tribunal, ... to incorporate by reference the terms of the Letter of Understanding in its order for removal of the case from the List [of cases]”; and whereas the Letter of Understanding sets out a number of commitments to be complied with by the Parties;

9. Whereas, pursuant to the Letter of Understanding, “the Parties consider that the release of the vessel *Zheng He*, and its unimpeded passage to the high seas, amount to a mutually satisfactory solution to the application lodged by Luxembourg before [the Tribunal]”;

10. Whereas, in their joint letter, the Parties stated that “the vessel *Zheng He* has received all clearances and approvals from the competent Mexican authorities to leave Mexican territory and was able to proceed to the high seas in accordance with the terms of the Letter of Understanding”;

11. Whereas, in the same letter, the Parties also stated that, “[i]n light of the above, and pursuant to Section III of the Letter of Understanding and Article 105, paragraph 1, of the Rules of the Tribunal, the Parties hereby notify the Tribunal of their agreement to discontinue the proceedings” and that, “[t]herefore, the Parties respectfully request that the Tribunal issue an order recording such discontinuance and directing the Registrar to remove the case from the List of Cases”;

THE PRESIDENT

*Places on record* the discontinuance, by agreement of the Parties, of the proceedings initiated on 4 June 2024 by Luxembourg against Mexico; and

*Orders* that the case be removed from the List of cases.

Done in English and in French, both texts being equally authoritative, in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, this sixteenth day of March, 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 HINRICHS OYARCE  
Registrar

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