



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

ITLOS FISHERIES WORKSHOP OPENS IN MALTA

Judge Tomas Heidar, President of the Tribunal, opened the Tribunal's Workshop focusing on the "Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources and the Role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the Settlement of Fisheries Disputes" today at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta.

The two-day workshop is being organized in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IMLI and welcomes representatives of Ecuador, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Uruguay.



In his opening statement, President Heidar highlighted the importance of the regime of fisheries in the international legal framework governing the oceans and noted the special features of fisheries-related disputes. The President expressed his appreciation that the Tribunal, FAO and IMLI cooperated to offer a rounded approach to the question of the regulation of fisheries under the law of the sea. He also thanked IMLI for its generous support in hosting the workshop and the Korea Maritime Institute and the Government of Cyprus, whose funding made the organization of the workshop possible.

Dr Matthew Camilleri, Secretary of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures at the FAO, in his opening words emphasized the importance of the sustainable use of fisheries and underlined the challenges posed by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in that regard. While noting that the fisheries regime enjoys a rich toolbox of legal instruments, Dr Camilleri pointed out the need to explore the linkages among those instruments and to employ such instruments in the most efficient way.

In his welcoming remarks, Professor Norman Martínez, Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, observed that the institutions co-organizing the Workshop share a strong commitment to capacity development and expressed the hope that the Workshop will serve not only to strengthen the close links between the Tribunal, FAO, and IMLI, but also to disseminate the relevant knowledge to the regional and national level, with a view to ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of marine living resources.

The programme includes a workshop on the international legal framework on fisheries with Ms Elda Kazara-Belja, Chief of Administration and Senior Lecturer (IMLI), a workshop on IUU Fishing with Dr Matthew Camilleri and Dr Buba Bojang (FAO) and two ITLOS workshops on proceedings before the Tribunal and on fisheries cases before it. In addition to President Heidar, presentations will be given by Judges Kittichaisaree, Caracciolo and Marciniak, Registrar Hinrichs Oyarce and Mr Panagis, Legal Officer.

Thematic workshops such as this fisheries workshop are organized in parallel to the Tribunal's regional workshop series and Legal Advisers workshops in order to familiarize participants with the dispute-settlement mechanisms established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and with the procedures applicable to relevant cases before the Tribunal.

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