



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

Press Release

PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED IN THE DISPUTE CONCERNING THE MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND MYANMAR IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

On 14 December 2009, proceedings were instituted before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the dispute relating to the delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Union of Myanmar.

It may be recalled that the dispute between the two countries had initially been submitted to an arbitral tribunal to be constituted under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"), through a notification dated 8 October 2009, made by the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar.

In a letter dated 13 December 2009 addressed to the President of the Tribunal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh referred to the declaration issued by the Union of Myanmar on 4 November 2009 by which the Union of Myanmar "accepts the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the settlement of dispute between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of Bangladesh relating to the delimitation of maritime boundary between the two countries in the Bay of Bengal" and transmitted to the Tribunal a declaration by Bangladesh dated 12 December 2009 by which Bangladesh "accepts the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the settlement of the dispute between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Union of Myanmar relating to the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal".

Based on these declarations, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, in her letter dated 13 December 2009, stated that "[g]iven Bangladesh's and Myanmar's mutual consent to the jurisdiction of ITLOS, and in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS Article 287 (4), Bangladesh considers that your distinguished Tribunal is now the only forum for the resolution of the parties' dispute". In her letter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh further stated that "Bangladesh respectfully invites ITLOS to exercise jurisdiction over the maritime boundary dispute between Bangladesh and Myanmar, which is the subject of Bangladesh's 08 October 2009 statement of claim".

In light of the agreement of the parties, as expressed through their respective declarations, to submit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea their dispute

relating to the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal, and taking into account the invitation addressed to the Tribunal by Bangladesh “to exercise jurisdiction” over said dispute, the case has been entered in the List of cases of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea as Case No.16.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal’s websites: <http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org