



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

# Press Release

## PRESIDENT JESUS ADDRESSES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Judge José Luis Jesus, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 4 December 2009, on the occasion of its annual consideration of the agenda item 'Oceans and the Law of the Sea'.

Reviewing the previous twelve months, President Jesus welcomed the new States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – Switzerland, Dominican Republic and Chad – and informed the delegates that Judge Jin-Hyun Paik had been elected Member of the Tribunal in March 2009. He highlighted the organizational meetings of the Tribunal, the forthcoming meeting of the Special Chamber in the *Case concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Exploitation of Swordfish Stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean (Chile/European Community)*, and the Tribunal's efforts to promote the knowledge of the Convention and its dispute-settlement system through its range of regional workshops.

The President thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea for noting the continued contribution of the Tribunal to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Part XV of the Convention. Reminding the delegates that States Parties may select their preferred means for the settlement of disputes under article 287 of the Convention, the President observed that of the current 160 States Parties only 40 have filed declarations. He expressed the hope that, as encouraged by the draft resolution (contained in document A/64/L.18), an increasing number of States would make declarations as concerns their choice of procedure for settling disputes.

Turning to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal to hear disputes concerning the interpretation or application of any international agreement related to the purposes of the Convention which confer jurisdiction upon it, President Jesus noted that a growing number of agreements relating *inter alia* to fisheries, marine pollution, conservation of marine resources and underwater cultural heritage make reference to the Tribunal as a means for the settlement of disputes. He observed that provisions conferring jurisdiction on the Tribunal have also been included in bilateral agreements and that the inclusion of such provisions in agreements relating to law of the sea matters provides a judicial mechanism for States to seek a peaceful resolution of their dispute.

The text of the President's statement may be found on the website of the Tribunal.

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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](mailto:press@itlos.org)