



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

Press Release

**DISPUTE CONCERNING DELIMITATION OF THE MARITIME BOUNDARY
BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND MYANMAR IN THE BAY OF BENGAL**

FIXING OF TIME-LIMITS

The President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has fixed the time-limits for the filing of Memorial and Counter-Memorial in the case relating to the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh/Myanmar)*.

During consultations held with the President of the Tribunal on 25 and 26 January 2010 on the premises of the Tribunal, the representatives of the parties agreed on the following order and time-limits for the filing of the written pleadings:

- 1 July 2010: Time-limit for the filing of the Memorial by Bangladesh;
- 1 December 2010: Time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial by Myanmar.

They further agreed that, should the Tribunal find it necessary to authorize the presentation of reply and rejoinder, the time-limits for the filing of these pleadings should be as follows:

- 15 March 2011: Time-limit for the filing of the Reply by Bangladesh;
- 1 July 2011: Time-limit for the filing of the Rejoinder by Myanmar.

By Order 2010/01 of 28 January 2010, the President, taking into account the agreement of the parties, fixed 1 July 2010 as the time-limit for the submission of the Memorial of Bangladesh and 1 December 2010 as the time-limit for the submission of the Counter-Memorial of Myanmar. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

The text of the Order is available on the website of the Tribunal at www.itlos.org.

History of proceedings

The proceedings were instituted before the Tribunal on 14 December 2009. By a letter dated 13 December 2009, filed in the Registry of the Tribunal on 14 December 2009, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh notified

the President of the Tribunal of declarations issued by the Union of Myanmar on 4 November 2009 and by Bangladesh on 12 December, respectively. In its declaration of 4 November 2009, Myanmar stated that it “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”. In its declaration of 12 December 2009, Bangladesh stated that it “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 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. [...] 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 reflected in their respective declarations, to submit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for adjudication their dispute relating to the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal, and taking into account the notification of Bangladesh filed on 14 December 2009, the case was entered in the List of cases 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