



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

Press Release

**NEW ARBITRATOR AND PRESIDENT APPOINTED IN THE
ARBITRAL PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

On 21 June 2013, the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Judge Shunji Yanai, appointed Mr Thomas A. Mensah (Ghana) as arbitrator and president in the arbitral proceedings instituted by the Republic of the Philippines against the People's Republic of China under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 22 January 2013 (for further information, see ITLOS/Press 191).

The Agent and Solicitor General of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Mr Francis H. Jardeleza, informed President Yanai by letter of 27 May 2013 that "Mr M.C.W. Pinto has elected to step down as a member and President of the arbitral tribunal in these proceedings" and that "[t]he vacancy left by his departure therefore needs to be filled" and requested, in accordance with article 3, subparagraphs (e) and (f) of Annex VII to the Convention, that the President appoint Mr Pinto's replacement.

Under article 3, subparagraph (f) of Annex VII to the Convention, a vacancy in the arbitral tribunal should be filled "in the manner prescribed for the initial appointment". The President is therefore required to make the appointment to fill the vacant seat within a period of 30 days of the receipt of the request and in consultations with the parties, as prescribed under article 3, subparagraph (e), of Annex VII to the Convention. Further to consultations by correspondence with the parties on the matter, Mr Thomas Mensah has been appointed to serve as member and president of the arbitral tribunal.

The composition of the five-member Annex VII arbitral tribunal is now as follows: Thomas Mensah, president (Ghana), Jean-Pierre Cot (France), Stanislaw Pawlak (Poland), Alfred Soons (the Netherlands) and Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany).

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents
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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