



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

Press Release

PRESIDENT GOLITSYN REPORTS TO THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

On 8 June 2015, the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Judge Vladimir Golitsyn, addressed the 25th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to present the annual report of the Tribunal.

The President informed the Meeting that Judge Vicente Marotta Rangel had resigned as member of the Tribunal on 18 May 2015 and noted his great contribution to the work of the Tribunal since its inauguration in 1996. He advised the delegates that an election will be scheduled at a Special Meeting of States Parties in order to fill the vacant seat. The President recalled that, on 1 October 2014, he had been elected as President, Judge Bouguetaia as Vice-President of the Tribunal, and Judge Jesus as President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber.

Turning to the judicial meetings held in 2014, the President reported on the Judgment in the *M/V "Virginia G" Case*, emphasizing the contribution to international law made by the Tribunal in this judgment on matters relating to the existence of a genuine link between the flag State and a ship flying its flag, the applicability of the exhaustion of local remedies rule and the competence of the coastal State to regulate offshore bunkering in its exclusive economic zone.

President Golitsyn informed the delegates about the first advisory opinion of the Tribunal, delivered at the request of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), consisting of seven West African States, and concerning illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) activities in the exclusive economic zones of SRFC Member States. He noted that the opinion clarified several matters regarding the obligations and liability of both flag States and international organizations in relation to IUU fishing in the exclusive economic zones of SRFC Member States. In its opinion, the Tribunal also addressed the issue of the rights and obligations of the SRFC Member States in managing certain fish stocks. He noted that it is expected that the answers provided by the Tribunal in its Advisory Opinion will assist the SRFC in carrying out its activities and pursuing its efforts to combat IUU fishing.

The President mentioned the ongoing case between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire concerning their maritime boundary, which has been submitted to a Special Chamber of the Tribunal, and Côte d'Ivoire's recent request for the prescription of provisional measures. He reported on the Chamber's unanimous Order, according to which, and in order to preserve the rights of Côte d'Ivoire, the Chamber decided that

Ghana should take all the necessary steps to ensure that no new drilling either by Ghana or under its control takes place in the disputed area.

Concluding his statement, President Golitsyn emphasized the Tribunal's commitment to capacity-building as an effective tool to transmit knowledge in law of the sea matters and dispute settlement procedures to younger generations and invited States Parties to consider making contributions to the Trust Fund for the Law of the Sea in support of the internship programme.

The text of the President's statement may be found on the Tribunal's [website](#).

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

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