



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 GHANA AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN (GHANA/CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD FROM 6 TO 16 FEBRUARY 2017

The public hearing in the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean (Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire)* will open on Monday, 6 February 2017 at 10 a.m. Judge Bouguetaia, President of the Special Chamber constituted to deal with the dispute, will preside over the hearing.

The schedule for the hearings is as follows:

First round of oral argument: 6 – 10 February 2017

Ghana

Monday, 6 February 2017 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 7 February 2017 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Côte d'Ivoire

Thursday, 9 February 2017 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, 10 February 2017 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Second round of oral argument: 13 – 16 February 2017

Ghana

Monday, 13 February 2017 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Côte d'Ivoire

Thursday, 16 February 2017 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Background of the case

The dispute was submitted by way of special agreement between the two States concerned to a special chamber of the Tribunal, formed in application of article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statute by Order of the Tribunal dated 12 January 2015. The Special

Chamber consists of Vice-President Bouguetaia (Algeria), Judges Wolfrum (Germany) and Paik (Republic of Korea) and Judges *ad hoc* Thomas Mensah (Ghana) and Ronny Abraham (France). Vice-President Bouguetaia presides over the Chamber.

On 27 February 2015, Côte d'Ivoire submitted a request for the prescription of provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, requesting the Chamber to order that Ghana shall, inter alia, "take all steps to suspend all oil exploration and exploitation operations under way in the disputed area". The Special Chamber delivered its Order on the Request on 25 April 2015, in which, inter alia, it considered appropriate to "order Ghana to take all the necessary steps to ensure that no new drilling either by Ghana or under its control takes place in the disputed area".

The Chamber will hear the merits of the case during the upcoming oral proceedings. These have been preceded by the filing by both Parties of their written pleadings within the time-limits fixed by Orders of the President of the Chamber.

Attending the hearing

The hearing will take place in the main courtroom of the Tribunal and is open to the public. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps wishing to attend the hearing are requested to contact the Tribunal's [Protocol Office](#). Members of the general public are welcome to attend and are requested to register in advance with the [Press Office](#). Members of the press are requested to register in advance with the Press Office using the [accreditation form](#).

Webcast

The sittings will be broadcast [live](#) on the website. A recorded webcast will be made available under [Webcast Archives](#) after the close of each sitting. The verbatim records of the hearing will be published shortly thereafter on the website of the Tribunal.

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