



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

Press Release

**THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
TRANSFER THEIR DISPUTE
CONCERNING THE *M/T "SAN PADRE PIO"* TO THE TRIBUNAL**

On 17 December 2019, the Swiss Confederation and the Federal Republic of Nigeria transmitted a special agreement and notification to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") to submit to the Tribunal their dispute concerning the arrest and detention of the *M/T "San Padre Pio"*, its crew and cargo. The *M/T "San Padre Pio"* is a motor tanker flying the flag of Switzerland, which was arrested by Nigerian authorities while it was allegedly engaged in ship-to-ship transfers of gasoil in Nigeria's exclusive economic zone.

Arbitral proceedings under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") were instituted by Switzerland against Nigeria on 6 May 2019. Pending the constitution of the arbitral tribunal, a request for the prescription of provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 5, of the Convention was submitted to the Tribunal by Switzerland on 21 May 2019. The Tribunal prescribed provisional measures by Order of 6 July 2019.

During consultations with President Paik, held at the Tribunal on 2 and 3 December 2019, the Parties agreed to transfer the dispute to the Tribunal. The case has been entered in the List of cases as Case no. 29.

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