



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

Press Release

**REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION OF
SMALL ISLAND STATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
(REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNAL)**

FILING OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS

With regard to Case No. 31 (*Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*), by Order dated 16 December 2022, the President of the Tribunal invited States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”) and the intergovernmental organizations identified in that Order to submit written statements and fixed 16 May 2023 as the time limit for the presentation of such written statements, pursuant to articles 138, paragraph 3, and 133, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal. By Order dated 15 February 2023, the President extended to 16 June 2023 the time limit for the presentation of such statements. In addition, and upon their request, the President decided to consider the African Union, the International Seabed Authority and the Pacific Community as likely to be able to furnish information on the questions submitted to the Tribunal and therefore invited them to do so within the time limit.

Written statements from 31 States Parties and eight intergovernmental organizations have been filed within the time limit fixed by the President of the Tribunal. After the expiry of this time limit, further written statements were received from the Republic of Rwanda and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The President of the Tribunal decided that the written statements referred to above shall be admitted and included in the case file.

Written statements have been submitted by the following (in order of submission):

States Parties to the Convention

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Poland, New Zealand, Japan, Norway, Germany, Italy, China, European Union, Mozambique, Australia, Mauritius, Indonesia, Latvia, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Egypt, Brazil, France, Chile, Bangladesh, Nauru, Belize, Portugal, Canada, Guatemala, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Djibouti

Intergovernmental organizations invited to submit written statements pursuant to articles 138, paragraph 3, and 133, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal

United Nations, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, International Maritime Organisation, Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law, Pacific Community, United Nations Environment Programme, African Union, International Seabed Authority

Statements received after the expiry of the time limit fixed by Order 2023/1 of 15 February 2023

Rwanda

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

All written statements are available on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.

In addition, statements have been transmitted to the Tribunal by the following:

United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights & Climate Change, Toxics & Human Rights and Human Rights & the Environment; High Seas Alliance; ClientEarth; Opportunity Green; Center for International Environmental Law and Greenpeace International; Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea; World Wide Fund for Nature; Our Children's Trust and Oxfam International; Observatory for Marine and Coastal Governance; One Ocean Hub

These statements will not be included in the case file; they have been placed in a special section of 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 website (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter or Mr Robert Steenkamp at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org