



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

Press Release

**CASE CONCERNING AN INQUIRY BY THE
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
(TONGA OFFSHORE MINING LTD. V. INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY)**

REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL MEASURES

PUBLIC HEARING TO OPEN ON 2 JULY 2026

By Order of 10 June 2026, the President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber, Judge David Joseph Attard, fixed 2 July 2026 as the date for the opening of the oral proceedings in the *Case concerning an inquiry by the International Seabed Authority (Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. v. International Seabed Authority)*. A copy of the Order is available on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.

Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. (“TOML”) instituted proceedings before the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal against the International Seabed Authority (“the Authority”) on 5 June 2026. The Applicant contends that it is in dispute with the Authority regarding the manner by which the Authority is conducting an inquiry into TOML as a contractor allegedly requiring “specific attention” for possible non-compliance with its contractual obligations arising out of direct or indirect actions related to activities in the Area.

The Application was accompanied by a request for the prescription of provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In the request, the Seabed Disputes Chamber is requested to order the Authority, *inter alia*, to suspend its inquiry and to refrain from taking, authorizing or permitting any steps in connection with it. The schedule for the hearing, which will be devoted to the request for provisional measures, will be published on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.

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 and the general public wishing to attend the hearing are requested to register in advance with the [Press Office](#).

Accreditation for media representatives

Members of the press are welcome to attend the hearing and are requested to register in advance using the [accreditation form](#) that is available on the website of the Tribunal. Unobtrusive audio and video recording of the hearing is permitted.

Webcast

The hearing 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 [case page](#).

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 at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; E-mail: press@itlos.org