



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

Press Release

ELECTION OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

Seven Members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea were elected on 18 June 2026 at the thirty-sixth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, currently ongoing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The States Parties re-elected Judges Kolodkin (Russian Federation) and Lijnzaad (The Netherlands), whose biographies are available on the [website](#) of the Tribunal. The States Parties also elected Ms Sylvia Ama Adusu (Ghana), Mr George Rodrigo Bandeira Galindo (Brazil), Mr Slim Laghmani (Tunisia), Ms Lan-Anh Thi Nguyen (Viet Nam) and Mr Bimal N. Patel (India). The biographies of the newly elected judges may be found in document [SPLOS/36/7](#), which is available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations. The judges were elected for a term of nine years commencing on 1 October 2026.

Elections for one third of the judges of the Tribunal are held every three years at the Meeting of States Parties. The judges are elected by the States Parties to the Convention by secret ballot for a term of nine years and may be re-elected. In accordance with the Tribunal's Statute, each State Party may nominate up to two candidates from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea. The Statute requires that equitable geographical distribution be assured among the Members and that the principal legal systems of the world be represented. It further stipulates that there should be at least three Judges from each geographical group as established by the General Assembly of the United Nations and that no two judges may be of the same nationality. The persons elected shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the States Parties present and voting, provided that such majority includes a majority of the States Parties.

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; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org