



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

Press Release

REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNAL BY THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AGAINST THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

On 13 October 2026, Argentina submitted a request to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (“the Tribunal”) for the prescription of provisional measures against the United Kingdom under article 290, paragraph 5, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”) in a “dispute concerning the exploitation of hydrocarbon resources in the South-West Atlantic Ocean”.

By a notification addressed to the United Kingdom on 28 September 2026, Argentina instituted arbitral proceedings under Annex VII to the Convention. Pursuant to article 290, paragraph 5, of the Convention, pending the constitution of an arbitral tribunal, any party to the dispute may request the Tribunal to prescribe provisional measures. The Tribunal may prescribe provisional measures if it considers that, *prima facie*, the arbitral tribunal to be constituted would have jurisdiction and that the urgency of the situation so requires.

According to its Statement of Claim, Argentina “requests the arbitral tribunal to declare that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, by unilaterally authorizing the exploration and exploitation of natural resources in the maritime areas surrounding the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, and by refusing to settle the dispute thus arisen with the Argentine Republic:

(1) is in breach of the international obligation to respect the sovereignty and sovereign rights of the Argentine Republic over the maritime areas, in accordance with Articles 2, 56 and 77 of UNCLOS;

(2) is in breach of the obligation to refrain from taking unilateral measures of exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of maritime areas subject to an international dispute between the two States within the framework of the decolonization process governed by the United Nations;

(3) is in breach of the obligations set forth in Part XII of UNCLOS by preventing the Argentine Republic from fulfilling its obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment under Articles 192 and 194 of that Convention with respect to the disputed maritime areas;

(4) is in breach of the obligation to settle international disputes by peaceful means, and in particular disputes concerning the interpretation or application of UNCLOS, as provided in Articles 279 and 300 of the Convention and in Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.”

In its Request for provisional measures, Argentina requests the Tribunal to prescribe the following provisional measures:

- (a) that the United Kingdom prevent the commencement or continuation of the exploitation of hydrocarbon resources on the continental shelf in the North Malvinas Basin by the so-called “Sea Lion” project;
- (b) that the United Kingdom refrain from using the information obtained in the exploration of the natural resources of the disputed maritime areas to the detriment of the rights of the Argentine Republic;
- (c) that the United Kingdom cease preventing the Argentine Republic from complying with its obligation under Articles 192 and 194 of UNCLOS to protect and preserve the marine environment of the maritime areas subject to dispute; and
- (d) that the United Kingdom refrain from taking any other measure that might aggravate the dispute, in particular the granting of new permits for the exploitation of the resources of the disputed continental shelf.

Article 90, paragraph 2, of the Rules of the Tribunal provides that the Tribunal, or the President if the Tribunal is not sitting, shall fix the earliest possible date for the hearing. The date of the oral proceedings in the case will be announced shortly in a further press release.

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 or Mr Yuhao Tang at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227/181; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245;
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