



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

Press Release

PRESIDENT PAIK REPORTS TO THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

On 11 June 2018, Judge Jin-Hyun Paik, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, presented the Tribunal's annual report for 2017 to the 28th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The President informed the Meeting about organizational matters concerning the Tribunal, noting that the seven judges elected at last year's Meeting had begun their terms of office on 1 October 2017. He also mentioned the election of Judge David Attard of Malta as the Vice-President of the Tribunal on 2 October 2017 and of Judge Albert Hoffman of South Africa as the President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber on 4 October 2017.

The President reported on the judicial work of the Tribunal, noting that the Special Chamber of the Tribunal had delivered its Judgment in the dispute concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean on 23 September 2017. In the Judgment, the Special Chamber delimited the maritime boundary between the two Parties in the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, including the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. In addition, the Special Chamber dealt with Côte d'Ivoire's claim that the responsibility of Ghana was engaged for alleged violations of the rights of Côte d'Ivoire.

The President then referred to another case currently pending on the docket of the Tribunal, the *M/V "Norstar" case (Panama v. Italy)*, concerning the arrest and detention of the *M/V "Norstar"*, an oil tanker flying the Panamanian flag. In respect of this case, on 4 November 2016, the Tribunal delivered its Judgment on the Preliminary Objections raised by Italy, finding that it had jurisdiction to adjudicate the dispute and that Panama's application was admissible. The merits phase of the case resumed and the Parties submitted written pleadings on the merits during 2017 and 2018. Public hearings are expected to be held in September this year.

The President also emphasized the role of the training and capacity-building programmes organized by the Tribunal, and expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Maritime Economy of Cabo Verde, the Korea Maritime Institute and the China Institute of International Studies for their generosity and excellent cooperation in organizing the regional workshop held in Cabo Verde on 2 and 3 May this year. He also thanked the Nippon Foundation for its continued support for the nine-month Nippon/ITLOS capacity-building programme, as well as the Korea Maritime Institute, the China Institute of International Studies and the Government of China for their contributions to the Tribunal's internship

programme and the Summer Academy. The President also highlighted the Tribunal's public outreach activities, referring to the round-table discussion on the Tribunal's procedures concerning the arrest and detention of vessels, which took place on 28 March 2018.

The President drew the Meeting's attention to the current negotiations on an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Noting that the issue of a mechanism for the settlement of disputes relating to the new instrument is one of the questions to be discussed at the first session of the intergovernmental conference, President Paik expressed the Tribunal's readiness to deal with any further tasks with which the States Parties to the Convention might wish to entrust it in the future.

The President closed his statement by expressing his gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General, the Legal Counsel and the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and her staff for their continued support and cooperation.

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