



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

Press Release

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE TRIBUNAL

On 25 September 2018, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea amended article 60, paragraph 2, and article 61, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal, relating to the adoption by the Tribunal of a decision authorizing a second round of written pleadings.

Article 60, paragraph 2, refers to the procedure when a case is submitted to the Tribunal by way of an application, while article 61, paragraph 3, refers to the procedure when a case is submitted by way of a special agreement.

Under the amended provisions, the President of the Tribunal may authorize a second round of written pleadings if the Tribunal is not sitting. Prior to the amendment, articles 60 and 61 stipulated that authorization should be given by the Tribunal only. The amendments have been made in the interest of the efficient and cost-effective administration of justice.

The newly amended provisions read as follows:

Article 60, paragraph 2, of the Rules of the Tribunal

“The Tribunal may authorize or direct that there shall be a reply by the applicant and a rejoinder by the respondent if the parties are so agreed or if the Tribunal decides, at the request of a party or *proprio motu*, that these pleadings are necessary. If the Tribunal is not sitting, its powers under this article may be exercised by the President of the Tribunal, but without prejudice to any subsequent decision of the Tribunal.”

Article 61, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal

“The Tribunal shall not authorize the presentation of replies and rejoinders unless it finds them to be necessary. If the Tribunal is not sitting, its powers under this article may be exercised by the President of the Tribunal, but without prejudice to any subsequent decision of the Tribunal.”

The Tribunal decided that the amendments would enter into force forthwith.

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 Benjamin Benirschke at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org