



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

Press Release

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

The Twentieth Anniversary of the opening for signature of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which established the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, is being commemorated with two days of special events on Monday, 9 December and Tuesday, 10 December in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes a comprehensive legal framework to regulate all ocean space, its uses and resources. The Tribunal, described by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, on the occasion of the opening of the Tribunal's headquarters building in July 2000 as "the keystone of the Convention", is the central forum available for the resolution of disputes involving the interpretation or application of the Convention.

The Tribunal is currently dealing with *The "Volga" Case (Russian Federation v. Australia), Prompt Release*. As a consequence, the President of the Tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson, is unable to attend the ceremony. The statement of the President will be read by Judge Alexander Yankov at the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly.

The text of the statement may be found on the website of the Tribunal under News/Statements of the President.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's website at www.itlos.org and www.tiddm.org and from the Registry of the Tribunal.

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