

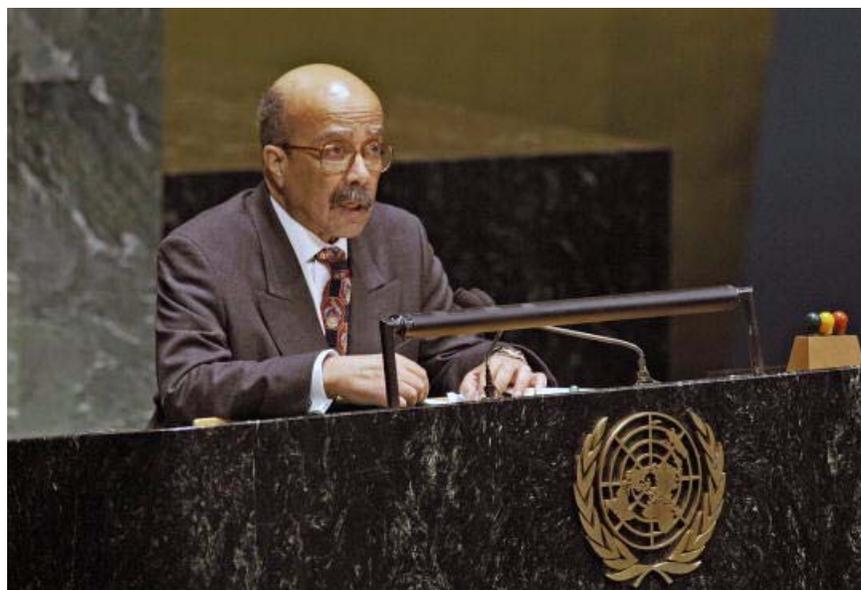


INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

PRESIDENT DOLLIVER NELSON ADDRESSES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE NOTES THAT IN ITS EIGHT YEAR EXISTENCE THE TRIBUNAL HAS DEALT WITH 12 CASES AND DELIVERED 6 JUDGMENTS AND 26 ORDERS, AND STRESSES THAT THE TRIBUNAL STANDS READY TO DEAL WITH NEW CASES SUBMITTED TO IT

On 17 November 2004, ten years after the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea addressed the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.



UN Photo/Ky Chung

Looking back over the eight-year existence of the Tribunal, President Nelson noted that in the 12 cases dealt with by the Tribunal, six judgments and 26 orders had been delivered and that 17 States Parties had been involved in the proceedings. He stressed the ready availability of the Tribunal to prospective litigants and drew the attention of the General Assembly to the possibility of submitting disputes to special chambers of the Tribunal as a viable alternative to arbitration.

(more)

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Referring to the possibility offered by article 287 of the Convention of choosing the means for the settlement of disputes concerning the Convention, President Nelson expressed the hope that an increasing number of States would make such declarations, reminding the delegates that in the absence of any declaration under article 287, States are deemed to have accepted arbitration and that arbitration would then be the only procedure binding upon the parties, unless they agreed otherwise.

President Nelson reported to the delegates that a symposium on maritime delimitation had taken place at the Tribunal in September, organized jointly by the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea, the Association internationale du droit de la mer, the Institut du droit économique de la mer (Monaco), the Law of the Sea and Maritime Law Institute of the University of Hamburg, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographical Agency and the Bucerius Law School. The symposium had been a fitting event to show that the Tribunal is ready and possesses the necessary expertise to deal with cases relating to maritime delimitation.

President Nelson also informed the General Assembly that the negotiations with the German authorities on the Headquarters Agreement between the Tribunal and the Federal Republic of Germany had come to a successful conclusion and that the agreement was expected to be signed before the end of the year.

He thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea for noting the continued contribution of the Tribunal to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Part XV of the Convention and for underlining the important role and authority of the Tribunal concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention.

The full text of the President's statement may be found on the Tribunal's website.

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 Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245;
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