



# Meeting of States Parties

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**Thirty-fourth Meeting (resumed)**

New York, 27 November 2024

## **Report of the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties resumed to elect members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was resumed at United Nations Headquarters on 27 November 2024, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, for the purpose of filling vacant seats in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf allocated to members of the Commission from African States and Eastern European States pursuant to the arrangement for the allocation of seats on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf approved at the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties on 26 June 2009.<sup>1</sup> One such seat had become vacant following the resignation of Miloud Loukili (Morocco). Another seat has remained vacant since 2015, owing to a lack of nominations from Eastern European States.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Meeting had before it its agenda,<sup>3</sup> a note by the Secretary-General concerning the election of two members of the Commission,<sup>4</sup> a list of candidates nominated by States parties<sup>5</sup> and the curriculum vitae of the candidate nominated by the Government of Morocco.<sup>6</sup>

### **II. Opening of the Meeting**

3. The President of the thirty-fourth Meeting, Dunkan Laki Muhumuza (Uganda), opened the resumed Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> SPLOS/201.

<sup>2</sup> SPLOS/34/7, para. 7.

<sup>3</sup> SPLOS/34/1.

<sup>4</sup> SPLOS/34/13.

<sup>5</sup> SPLOS/34/14.

<sup>6</sup> SPLOS/34/CRP.2.



### III. Credentials of representatives to the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties

4. The Meeting reopened agenda item 12, entitled “Report of the Credentials Committee”. The President recalled that the thirty-fourth Meeting had approved the report of the Credentials Committee<sup>7</sup> in June 2024 on the understanding that the credentials of the representatives of States parties participating in the thirty-fourth Meeting would continue to be valid until the convening of the thirty-fifth Meeting,<sup>8</sup> in accordance with rule 1 of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties.<sup>9</sup>

5. The President recalled that the resumed twenty-eighth Meeting had decided, with a view to expediting the work of that and future resumed Meetings convened for the purpose of conducting elections, that if there were a limited number of new or updated credentials, it could proceed on the basis of an oral update by the Chair of the Credentials Committee on the credentials and other information concerning the appointment of representatives received from States parties since the adjournment of the Meeting.<sup>10</sup>

6. On that basis, the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Solomon Korbieh (Ghana), provided an oral update.<sup>11</sup> He informed the Meeting that, after the thirty-fourth Meeting had approved the report of the Credentials Committee, the following States parties had submitted formal credentials: Côte d’Ivoire, Czechia, Jamaica, Mauritius, Namibia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine. The Chair also informed the Meeting that formal credentials had been received from Madagascar, Malawi and San Marino, and provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives had been received from Armenia, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the State of Palestine, Togo and Vanuatu. Consequently, in total, formal credentials had been received from 84 States parties and provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives had been received from 67 States parties, including the European Union, on the understanding that formal credentials would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

7. The Meeting took note of the oral update by the Chair of the Credentials Committee and decided to accept the credentials mentioned therein.

### IV. Election of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

8. The Meeting reopened agenda item 13, entitled “Election of two members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf”. The President drew the attention of the Meeting to the note by the Secretary-General on election procedures<sup>4</sup> and drew the attention of delegations to the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties.<sup>9</sup> Recalling that the Secretary-

<sup>7</sup> [SPLOS/34/10](#).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12.

<sup>9</sup> [SPLOS/2/Rev.5](#).

<sup>10</sup> [SPLOS/327](#), para. 8.

<sup>11</sup> For the credentials that were accepted at the Meeting in June 2024, see [SPLOS/34/10](#) and [SPLOS/34/12](#), paras. 8 and 9. The Meeting also endorsed a proposal by the Chair of the Credentials Committee and took note of a technical correction concerning credentials, namely that Guyana should have been listed among States parties in respect of which formal credentials were received after the Credentials Committee had met ([SPLOS/34/12](#), para. 8) rather than among States parties that had submitted provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives ([SPLOS/34/10](#), para. 5).

General had called for nominations to fill two vacant seats allocated to members of the Commission from African States and Eastern European States, the President informed the Meeting that only one nomination had been received by the deadline of 18 October 2024, from the Group of African States. Therefore, the election could be conducted only to fill the vacant seat allocated to African States. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, two thirds of States parties, namely 113 States parties, constituted a quorum.

9. The representatives of Canada, Latvia and Mexico acted as tellers.

10. In a single round of balloting, 139 ballots were cast. Ahmed Er Raji (Morocco) was elected as a member of the Commission, with 136 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.<sup>12</sup> He will serve for the remainder of the term of Mr. Loukili, from the date of election until 15 June 2028.

11. On behalf of the Meeting of States Parties, the President congratulated Mr. Er Raji on his election.

## V. Filling of vacancies in the Commission

12. Following the election of one member of the Commission, the Meeting reopened agenda item 10 (c), entitled “Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf: filling of a vacancy in the Commission”. Recalling the lack of nominations to fill the remaining vacant seat allocated to members from Eastern European States, the President drew the attention of delegations to the impact of the long-standing vacancy, which had persisted since 2015, on the work of the Commission and its subcommissions, underscoring that it was the responsibility of States parties to ensure that the Commission could operate with full membership.

13. The representative of North Macedonia, chairing the regional group for the month of November 2024, indicated that no nominations had been received to fill the vacancy.

14. The Meeting decided that, should the President of the Meeting receive from the Group of Eastern European States information about potential candidates no less than 14 weeks prior to the commencement of the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties, the Secretary-General would circulate a call for nominations, with a view to conducting elections at the thirty-fifth Meeting, to be held from 23 to 27 June 2025, with the deadline for nominations falling on 17 March 2025.

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<sup>12</sup> Number of ballots cast, 139; number of invalid ballots, 0; number of valid ballots, 139; abstentions, 3; number of representatives of States parties present and voting, 136; required majority, 91; number of votes obtained: Ahmed Er Raji (Morocco), 136.