



Meeting of States Parties

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Twenty-fifth Meeting (resumed)
New York, 15 January 2016

Election of one member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Note by the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the election procedures

I. Election of one member of the Tribunal

1. Article 6, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Tribunal (annex VI to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) provides that vacancies in the membership of the Tribunal shall be filled by the same method as that laid down for the first election, subject to the provision that the Registrar of the Tribunal shall, within one month of the occurrence of the vacancy, proceed to issue the invitations provided for in article 4 of the Statute, and the date of the election shall be fixed by the President of the Tribunal after consultation with the States parties. Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Statute further provides that a member of the Tribunal elected to replace a member whose term of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder of his predecessor's term.

2. With the resignation of Judge Vicente Marotta Rangel (Brazil) on 18 May 2015, a vacancy has occurred in the Tribunal for the remainder of his term of nine years, which would have ended on 30 September 2017. Pursuant to article 6 of the Statute, the election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term will be held on 15 January 2016.

3. One person was nominated, and the name of the candidate is being circulated to the States parties in document [SPLOS/289](#). The curriculum vitae of the candidate is being circulated in document [SPLOS/290](#).

II. Procedure

4. Pursuant to article 4, paragraph 4, of the Statute, the members of the Tribunal shall be elected by secret ballot at a meeting of States parties convened by a procedure agreed to by the States parties. Two thirds of the States parties shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Statute further



stipulates that the persons elected to the Tribunal shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the States parties present and voting, provided that such majority includes a majority of the States parties.

5. On 26 June 2009, the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties approved 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” (see [SPLOS/203](#), paras. 96-102). According to the arrangement (see [SPLOS/201](#)):

1. The allocation of seats of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, providing that no regional group will have fewer than three seats. From the next election, the Tribunal shall have the following composition:

(a) Five members of the Tribunal shall be from the Group of African States;

(b) Five members of the Tribunal shall be from the Group of Asian States;

(c) Three members of the Tribunal shall be from the Group of Eastern European States;

(d) Four members of the Tribunal shall be from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Three members of the Tribunal shall be from the Group of Western European and other States;

(f) The remaining one member of the Tribunal shall be elected from among the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Western European and other States.

...

3. The above arrangements do not prejudice or affect future arrangements for elections.

6. It is noted that the vacancy in the Tribunal occurred owing to the resignation of a member elected from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

7. Articles 2 and 3 of the Statute provide as follows:

Article 2

Composition

1. The Tribunal shall be composed of a body of 21 independent members, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.

2. In the Tribunal as a whole the representation of the principal legal systems of the world and equitable geographical distribution shall be assured.

*Article 3**Membership*

1. No two members of the Tribunal may be nationals of the same State. A person who for the purposes of membership in the Tribunal could be regarded as a national of more than one State shall be deemed to be a national of the one in which he ordinarily exercises civil and political rights.

2. There shall be no fewer than three members from each geographical group as established by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Annex

Members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and their terms of office

<i>Name</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Date of expiry of term of office</i>
President		
Vladimir Vladimirovich Golitsyn	Russian Federation	30 September 2017
Vice-President		
Boualem Bouguetaia	Algeria	30 September 2017
Judges		
P. Chandrasekhara Rao	India	30 September 2017
Joseph Akl	Lebanon	30 September 2017
Rüdiger Wolfrum	Germany	30 September 2017
Tafsir Malick Ndiaye	Senegal	30 September 2020
José Luis Jesus	Cabo Verde	30 September 2017
Jean-Pierre Cot	France	30 September 2020
Anthony Amos Lucky	Trinidad and Tobago	30 September 2020
Stanislaw Michal Pawlak	Poland	30 September 2023
Shunji Yanai	Japan	30 September 2023
James Luta Kateka	United Republic of Tanzania	30 September 2023
Albertus Jacobus Hoffmann	South Africa	30 September 2023
Zhiguo Gao	China	30 September 2020
Jin-Hyun Paik	Republic of Korea	30 September 2023
Elsa Kelly	Argentina	30 September 2020
David J. Attard	Malta	30 September 2020
Markiyan Z. Kulyk	Ukraine	30 September 2020
Alonso Gómez-Robledo Verduzco	Mexico	30 September 2023
Tomas Heidar	Iceland	30 September 2023