



Meeting of States Parties

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Twenty-eighth Meeting (resumed)

New York, 15 January 2019

Report of the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties resumed to elect two members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

I. Introduction

1. The twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was resumed at United Nations Headquarters on 15 January 2019, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention,¹ for the purpose of filling two vacancies in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in accordance with article 2 of annex II to the Convention: (a) one vacancy arising from the resignation of a member who occupied a seat allocated to the Group of Asia-Pacific States; and (b) one vacancy allocated to the Group of Eastern European States, which remained unfilled.

2. The Meeting had before it the provisional agenda ([SPLOS/L.80](#)); a note by the Secretary-General concerning the election of two members of the Commission ([SPLOS/325](#)); a list of candidates nominated by States Parties ([SPLOS/326](#)); the curricula vitae of two candidates nominated by the Governments of China and Yemen ([SPLOS/CRP.2](#)); and a note verbale dated 14 January 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Yemen concerning the withdrawal of its nomination.

II. Opening of the Meeting

3. The President of the twenty-eighth Meeting, Sven Jürgenson (Estonia), opened the resumed Meeting.

4. The Meeting observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

III. Adoption of the agenda

5. The President introduced the provisional agenda ([SPLOS/L.80](#)), proposing the inclusion of one additional item, entitled “Credentials of representatives to the

¹ See also General Assembly resolution [73/124](#), para. 54.



twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties”. The agenda was then adopted as amended (see annex).

IV. Credentials of representatives to the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties

6. It was recalled that the twenty-eighth Meeting had approved the report of the Credentials Committee in June 2018 ([SPLOS/323](#) and [SPLOS/323/Corr.1](#)) on the understanding that the credentials would continue to be valid until the convening of the twenty-ninth Meeting, in accordance with rule 1 of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties (see [SPLOS/324](#), para. 12).

7. Since the twenty-eighth Meeting held in June 2018, the secretariat had received additional credentials and other information concerning the appointment of representatives from those States Parties whose credentials were already approved by the twenty-eighth Meeting, as well as formal and provisional credentials from States Parties that had not submitted any credentials for the Meeting in June 2018.

8. With a view to expediting the work of this and future resumed Meetings convened for the purpose of conducting elections, the Meeting decided 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.

9. On that basis, the Acting Chair of the Credentials Committee, Daryna Horbachova (Ukraine), provided an informal update.² informing the Meeting that the following States Parties that had submitted provisional credentials or had not submitted any credentials for the Meeting in June 2018 subsequently submitted formal credentials: Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Montenegro, Palau, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Vanuatu. The Chair further informed the Meeting that the following States Parties that had not submitted any credentials for the Meeting in June 2018 subsequently submitted information concerning the appointment of their representatives: Albania, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Jordan, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Serbia, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda and Zimbabwe. As a consequence, in total, 112 States Parties submitted formal credentials in the form required by rule 13 of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties, and 45 States Parties and the European Union submitted other information concerning the appointment of their representatives on the understanding that formal credentials would be communicated to the secretariat as soon as possible.³

10. The Meeting took note of the oral update by the Acting Chair of the Credentials Committee and decided to accept the credentials mentioned therein, on the understanding that those States Parties which had not yet done so communicate formal credentials of their representatives to the secretariat as soon as possible.

² For the credentials that were accepted at the Meeting in June 2018, see [SPLOS/323](#), [SPLOS/323/Corr.1](#) and [SPLOS/324](#), paras. 11 and 12.

³ Following the acceptance of the credentials mentioned in the oral update provided by the Chair of the Credentials Committee, the secretariat received formal credentials from Jordan and Sao Tome and Principe. The secretariat also received provisional credentials from Equatorial Guinea after the commencement of the election.

V. Election of two members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

11. The President informed the Meeting of the election procedures and recalled the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.4). He noted that since the closure of the nomination period on 10 January 2019 and the issuance of the list of candidates (SPLOS/326), the secretariat had received a note verbale dated 14 January 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Yemen withdrawing its nomination. The President further informed the Meeting that no nomination had been received from the Group of Eastern European States, and this seat would thus need to be filled at a future election.

12. The representatives of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Ukraine acted as tellers.

13. In the one round of balloting, Yong Tang (China) was elected as a member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, with 146 votes in favour and 5 abstentions.⁴ He will serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term, from the date of election until 15 June 2022.

14. On behalf of the Meeting of States Parties, the President congratulated Mr. Tang on his election.

15. The Meeting subsequently reverted to the matter of filling the seat in the Commission allocated to the Group of Eastern European States.

16. The delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Eastern European States, informed the Meeting that consultations within the Group were continuing with a view to presenting a candidate for election at the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties, to be held from 17 to 19 June 2019. The delegation further stated that the Group was also looking into other options and would consult other regional groups, if necessary.

17. The President recalled that the forty-ninth session of the Commission would commence on 28 January 2019 and emphasized that the absence of one member in the composition of the Commission would continue to have a negative impact on the work of the Commission as a whole. He underscored the need to ensure that the Commission operated with full membership and appealed to the Group of Eastern European States to continue its consultations so that the remaining seat could be filled as soon as possible.

18. The Meeting subsequently reiterated its decision taken in June 2018 that an election to fill this vacancy would be conducted at the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties only if the President received information about potential candidates no less than 14 weeks prior to the commencement of that Meeting, namely by 10 March 2019, and that, in the absence of such information, the Meeting would revert to the consideration of that matter under the agenda item "Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf".⁵

⁴ The detailed result of the one round of balloting was as follows: Asia-Pacific States: number of ballots, 151; number of invalid ballots, 0; number of valid ballots, 151; abstentions, 5; number of representatives of States Parties present and voting, 146; required majority, 98; number of votes obtained, Yong Tang (China), 146.

⁵ See SPLOS/324, para. 81.

Annex

Agenda of the resumed twenty-eighth Meeting

1. Opening of the resumed twenty-eighth Meeting.
 2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Credentials of representatives to the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties.
 5. Election of two members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ([SPLOS/325](#) and [SPLOS/326](#)).
 6. Other matters.
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