



## Meeting of States Parties

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### Twenty-first Meeting

New York, 13-17 June 2011

## Decision regarding the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

*The Meeting of States Parties,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“the Commission”) for coastal States and the international community as a whole,

*Mindful* of the workload of the Commission owing to a large number of submissions already made and the number of submissions which are expected to be made in the future,

*Reiterating* the need to ensure that the Commission can effectively perform the functions entrusted to it under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), while maintaining its high level of quality and expertise,

*Recalling* the decision of the twentieth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/216),

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 65/37A, paragraph 59, in which the Assembly welcomed the decision of the Meeting of States Parties to continue to consider the issue of the workload of the Commission, including through its Informal Working Group facilitated by the Bureau of the Meeting of States Parties, in particular to assess further measures that may be necessary, including the possibility of a full-time Commission, and for the Informal Working Group to make recommendations to the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties in 2011,

*Noting with appreciation* the continued efforts undertaken by the Commission to consider the submissions in a timely, efficient and effective manner,

*Recognizing* in this context the burden, including the financial burden, being placed on States whose experts are serving on the Commission,

*Recognizing in particular* the special challenges of developing States Parties whose experts are serving on the Commission, and in this regard the important role of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission,



*Bearing in mind* the legal framework of the work of the Commission, provided for in article 76 and annex II to the Convention,

*Bearing in mind also* that article 77 of the Convention provides that rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation,

*Noting with appreciation* the work done by the Secretariat, especially in providing, at the request of the Coordinator of the Informal Working Group, information on the standard costs as well as financial and other implications of options or proposals considered by the Informal Working Group,

*Welcoming* the work done by the Informal Working Group, facilitated by the Bureau of the twentieth Meeting of States Parties, relating to the workload of the Commission,

1. *Requests* the Commission to consider, in coordination with the Secretariat, in addition to those measures provided for in subparagraphs (a) to (f) of paragraph 1 the decision of the twentieth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/216), as from 16 June 2012, within the existing resources made available to the Secretariat, that the Commission, and its subcommissions meeting simultaneously as far as possible, meet in New York for up to 26 weeks but not less than an intended minimum of 21 weeks a year for a period of five years, distributed in such a way that the Commission determines to be the most effective, and that no two sessions be sequential;

2. *Recommends* that any requests for appropriate resources required by the Secretariat to facilitate an increased number of working weeks by the Commission be presented to the General Assembly during its sixty-sixth session;

3. *Recalls* the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts are serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties, and urges these States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

4. *Urges* those States which are in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund set up for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and, in this regard, welcomes recent contributions made or pledged by States Parties;

5. *Encourages* States Parties which are in a position to do so to provide medical coverage to the members of the Commission nominated by them while performing Commission duties in New York;

6. *Decides* that the measures proposed in paragraph 1 be reviewed at the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties with a view to assessing progress in reducing the projected timeline in the workload of the Commission;

7. *Also decides* to take up matters related to the workload of the Commission at the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties under the item "Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf".