



## Meeting of States Parties

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### Seventeenth Meeting

New York, 14 June and 18-22 June 2007

### Decision on the allocation of seats on the Commission and the Tribunal

*The Meeting of States Parties,*

*Having considered* the two joint proposals from the African and Asian States parties in relation to the allocation of seats on the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to reflect the increase in the number of States parties (see annexes),

1. *Decides* that further work on proposals for the allocation of seats would be required to adopt decisions at the commencement of the eighteenth meeting of States parties;

2. *Also decides* to take up at the next meeting of States parties the issue of allocation of seats on the Commission and the Tribunal, under the item entitled “The allocation of seats on the Commission and the Tribunal”.



## Annex I

### **Future elections of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf: joint African and Asian draft proposal**

1. In view of the past substantial growth in the number of, in particular, African and Asian States parties, the present decision is made to satisfy the need for revision of, and some certainty in, the equitable geographical representation in the composition of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
2. (a) Provided that no regional group will have fewer than three seats, the members of the Commission will be elected as follows:
  - (i) Five plus one commissioners shall be elected from the Group of African States;
  - (ii) Five plus one commissioners shall be elected from the Group of Asian States;
  - (iii) Three commissioners shall be elected from the Group of Eastern European States;
  - (iv) Four commissioners shall be elected from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States;
  - (v) Three commissioners shall be elected from the Group of Western European and other States;
- (b) The additional one seat of the African and Asian Groups in the Commission shall rotate. Asia shall occupy six seats in the next elections to the Commission, Africa shall occupy six seats in the elections following those, and so on.
3. The above arrangements will be applicable to future elections, while not prejudicing new arrangements necessitated by the proportional growth of any regional group.

Explanation of Joint African and Asian Groups' Proposal for Equitable Geographical Representation in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), as per Articles 2 and 3 of Annex II of UNCLOS, Articles 2 and 3 of the ITLOS Statute and as per text of Asian Group's Proposal, which is applicable to both CLCS and ITLOS.

UNCLOS PARTIES					155, including European Community (as of 30 June 2007)
1. AFRICAN GROUP	2. ASIAN GROUP	3. EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP	4. GRULAC	5. WEOG	
1 Burkina Faso	Kiribati	Estonia	Nicaragua	Denmark	
2 Madagascar	Tuvalu	Latvia	Suriname	Canada	
3 Gabon	Qatar	Lithuania	Chile	Luxembourg	
4 South Africa	Bangladesh	Albania	Guatemala	Belgium	
5 Benin	Maldives	Armenia	Haiti	Portugal	
6 Equatorial Guinea	Vanuatu	Hungary	Panama	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
7 Mozambique	Nepal	Serbia	Argentina	Spain	
8 Mauritania	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Ukraine	Bolivia	New Zealand	
9 Algeria	Solomon Islands	Poland	Guyana	Netherlands	
10 Sierra Leone	Pakistan	Russian Federation	Barbados	Sweden	
11 Mauritius	Papua New Guinea	Romania	Honduras	Norway	
12 Comoros	Brunei Darussalam	Czech Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Ireland	
13 Zimbabwe	Malaysia	Bulgaria	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Finland	
14 Djibouti	Palau	Georgia	Uruguay	France	
15 Seychelles	Mongolia	Slovakia	Costa Rica	Monaco	
16 Angola	Japan	Slovenia	Doninica	Greece	
17 Uganda	China	Croatia	Grenada	Austria	
18 Botswana	Myanmar	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Antigua and Barbuda	Italy	
19 Somalia	Saudi Arabia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Brazil	Germany	
20 Kenya	Republic of Korea	Belarus	Paraguay	Malta	
21 Democratic Republic of the Congo	Nauru	Montenegro	Trinidad and Tobago	Australia	
22 Sao Tome and Principe	Jordan	Moldova	Saint Lucia	Iceland	
23 Cune Verde	Samoa		Cuba		
24 Guinea-Bissau	Tonga		Belize		
25 Nigeria	India		Bahamas		
26 Cameroon	Cook Islands		Jamaica		
27 United Republic of Tanzania	Lebanon		Mexico		
28 Guinea	Singapore				
29 Mali	Viet Nam				
30 Tunisia	Sri Lanka				
31 Togo	Marshall Islands				
32 Sudan	Micronesia (Federated States of)				
33 Senegal	Oman				
34 Gambia	Cyprus				
35 Côte d'Ivoire	Yemen				
36 Egypt	Kuwait				
37 Ghana	Indonesia				
38 Namibia	Iraq				
39 Zambia	Bahrain				
40 Lesotho	Philippines				
41 Morocco	Fiji				
42	Niue				

5	5	3	4	4	Agreed no. of comms./judges
23.80%	23.80%	14.30%	19.00%	19.00%	% of comms./judges
41	42	22	27	22	UNCLOS Parties
26.62%	27.27%	14.29%	17.53%	14.29%	% of Parties
5.59	5.73	3.00	3.68	3.00	Proportional no. of comms./judges
5 + 1	5 + 1	3	4	3	Rounded proportional no. of comms./judges

The above two seats (italics; one in CLCS and one in ITLOS) shall rotate. Asia shall occupy them in the next elections, Africa shall occupy them in the elections thereafter, and so on.

## Annex II

### **Future elections of the members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: joint African and Asian draft proposal**

1. In view of the past substantial growth in the number of, in particular, African and Asian States parties, the present decision is made to satisfy the need for revision of, and some certainty in, the equitable geographical representation in the composition of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
2. (a) Provided that no regional group will have fewer than three seats, the members of the Tribunal will be elected as follows:
  - (i) Five plus one judges shall be elected from the Group of African States;
  - (ii) Five plus one judges shall be elected from the Group of Asian States;
  - (iii) Three judges shall be elected from the Eastern European Group;
  - (iv) Four judges shall be elected from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States;
  - (v) Three judges shall be elected from the Group of Western European and other States;
- (b) The additional one seat of the African and Asian Groups in the Tribunal shall rotate. Asia shall occupy six seats in the next elections to the Tribunal, Africa shall occupy six seats in the elections following those, and so on.
3. The above arrangements will be applicable to future elections, while not prejudicing new arrangements necessitated by the proportional growth of any regional group.