



## Meeting of States Parties

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### Twenty-fifth Meeting (resumed)

New York, 15 January 2016

## Election of one member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

### Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Secretary-General addressed a communication dated 28 September 2015 to States parties informing them of a vacancy in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf owing to the resignation of Nenad Leder (Croatia) on 22 September 2015.
2. It is recalled that rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.4](#)) provides that, if the office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant, the Meeting of States Parties shall, in accordance with rule 71, elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor's term. Rule 71 provides that the elections of the members of the Commission shall take place in accordance with article 76 and annex II to the Convention.
3. Correspondingly, rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission ([CLCS/40/Rev.1](#)) provides that, if a member of the Commission dies or resigns or for any other cause can no longer perform his or her duties, the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention shall elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor's term. Such by-elections shall be carried out in accordance with article 76 and annex II to the Convention.
4. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that elections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a meeting of States parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters.
5. In his communication dated 28 September 2015, the Secretary-General informed States parties that the twenty-fifth Meeting of States Parties would be resumed for the purpose of the election (see [SPLOS/L.76](#)).
6. In addition, States parties were invited to submit, from 1 October to 31 December 2015, nominations for the election of one member of the Commission, together with a statement of qualifications.



7. It is recalled that article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention provides that the members of the Commission shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

8. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that not less than three members of the Commission shall be elected from each geographical region. In that connection, it is recalled that the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, held in June 2009, 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](#)):

2. The allocation of seats of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf 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 Commission shall have the following composition:

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The remaining one member of the Commission shall be 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.

9. It is noted that the vacancy in the Commission occurred owing to the resignation of a member elected from the Group of Eastern European States.

10. Following the closure of the period of nominations on 31 December 2015, a list of candidates nominated by States parties will be prepared by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention and be made available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations at [http://www.un.org/depts/los/meeting\\_states\\_parties/meeting\\_states\\_parties.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/meeting_states_parties/meeting_states_parties.htm).

11. Subject to agreement at the Meeting, in accordance with established practice, the election would be held by secret ballot. In accordance with annex II to the Convention, two thirds of the States parties shall constitute a quorum. The person elected to the Commission shall be the one who has obtained a two-thirds majority of the votes of the representatives of the States parties present and voting. The member of the Commission thus elected will serve for the remainder of the predecessor’s term and will be eligible for re-election.