



Meeting of States Parties

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Thirty-second Meeting
New York, 13–17 June 2022

Report of the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties

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I. Introduction

1. The thirty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“Convention”) was convened from 13 to 17 June 2022, in accordance with article 319, paragraph 2 (e), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ and paragraph 58 of General Assembly resolution 76/72 of 9 December 2021.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of States parties to the Convention and observers, including the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.^{2,3}

II. Organization of work

A. Opening of the Meeting and election of officers

3. The President of the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties, Holger Martinsen (Argentina), opened the thirty-second Meeting.
4. The Meeting observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.
5. The Meeting elected Vanessa Frazier (Malta) as President of the thirty-second Meeting, by acclamation.
6. The Meeting elected Kennedy Godfrey Gastorn (United Republic of Tanzania), Natalia Jiménez Algeria (Mexico), Nathaniel Khng (Singapore) and Augustina Siman (Republic of Moldova) as Vice-Presidents, by acclamation.

Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

7. In his statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs underscored the continuing impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on ocean activities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He recalled the importance of the Convention and its implementing agreements in guiding all ocean activities and noted the increase in the number of parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,⁴ following the accession of Togo in 2022. He highlighted the progress made in oceans-related meetings, including in the intergovernmental conference on an international

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

² See rules 5, 18, 37 and 38 of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.5). The list of participants in the Meeting is available at [SPLOS/2/Rev.5](https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/32ae09cb-a160-4586-8083-08da00cb1115/2022-06-13/statements).

³ Statements by delegations and speakers for circulation are available for a limited time at: <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/32ae09cb-a160-4586-8083-08da00cb1115/2022-06-13/statements>; <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/fcd3c252-fc0e-407f-7bc3-08da00cb1115/2022-06-13/statements>; <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/d5fb49c8-ea9b-4525-7e29-08da00cb1115/2022-06-14/statements>; <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/f8e5d330-68b5-4946-8089-08da00cb1115/2022-06-14/statements>; <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/1b9dc093-bb43-442a-7f59-08da00cb1115/2022-06-16/statements>; <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/aa972c5b-ccfd-400a-7be5-08da00cb1115/2022-06-16/statements>; and <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/1688e803-8132-47b4-7ad1-08da00cb1115/2022-06-17/statements>.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, p. 3.

legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. He also welcomed progress on understanding the importance of ocean-related data and information, as highlighted during the meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on “ocean observing”. He noted the substantial workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the challenges concerning the conditions of service of its members, which required sustainable and long-term practical solutions.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The Meeting adopted the agenda ([SPLOS/32/1](#)) and approved the organization of work on the understanding that it could be adjusted, as necessary, to ensure the efficient conduct of the Meeting.

III. Credentials Committee

A. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

9. On 13 and 14 June 2022, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of the following States parties: Chile, China, Haiti, Iceland, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Spain and Uganda.

10. The Committee held its meeting on 14 June 2022. It elected José Juan Hernández Chávez (Chile) as Chair and Wisnique Panier (Haiti) as Vice-Chair, by acclamation.

B. Report of the Credentials Committee

11. The Chair of the Committee introduced an advance unedited version of the report of the Committee at the Meeting of States Parties on 15 June 2022 (subsequently issued as [SPLOS/32/11](#)), in which it was stated that the Committee had examined and accepted the credentials of representatives of 164 States parties to the thirty-second Meeting, of which 70 were formal credentials. Provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the thirty-second Meeting had been received from 94 States parties on the understanding that formal credentials would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The Chair informed the Meeting of the credentials⁵ and information concerning the appointment of representatives⁶ received after the Committee had held its meeting on 14 June 2022. He suggested the acceptance of the additional credentials by the Meeting. In addition, he noted that the Committee, having considered two communications pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar to the thirty-second Meeting, had decided to defer its decision on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar.

12. On 15 June 2022, the Meeting approved, on the basis of the proposal by the Committee, the report of the Credentials Committee on the understanding that the credentials would continue to be valid, in accordance with rule 1 of the rules of

⁵ From Austria, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Grenada, Italy, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland.

⁶ From Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea.

procedure, until the convening of the thirty-third Meeting (SPLOS/263, para. 101), and on the understanding that, if there were to be a resumed thirty-second Meeting of States Parties, the Committee would be able to resume its consideration of the credentials of representatives of States parties. On the basis of the report of the Chair, the Meeting also accepted, on the same understandings, credentials and information concerning the appointment of representatives received after the Committee had held its meeting on 14 June 2022.

IV. Matters related to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

A. Report of the Tribunal for 2021

13. The President of the Tribunal, Albert Hoffmann, introduced the annual report of the Tribunal for 2021 (SPLOS/32/2) and provided an overview of its activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021. Noting that 2022 marked the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, he also provided information on recent developments in the work of the Tribunal that had taken place in 2022.

14. With regard to judicial matters, the President outlined developments that had taken place in case No. 28, *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean (Mauritius/Maldives)*, and in case No. 29, *The M/T "San Padre Pio" (No. 2) case (Switzerland/Nigeria)*, which had been discontinued pursuant to an order dated 29 December 2021.

15. Addressing administrative and organizational matters, the President observed that the Tribunal's session in March 2021 had to be held in hybrid format owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person meetings were resumed for the sessions in September 2021 and March 2022. The President noted that, while hybrid and virtual formats had been helpful in those exceptional circumstances, they also presented numerous challenges, in particular regarding the technology required to ensure equal participation by the parties to a dispute. He underlined that the Tribunal had been fortunate not to have encountered such difficulties during the conduct of hearings and deliberations in case No. 28. In that context, the President also reported on ongoing work being undertaken by the Government of Germany to modernize the audiovisual equipment on the premises of the Tribunal, with an interim courtroom having been built to ensure that the Tribunal remained fully operational during the renovations. The President also recalled that the Tribunal had marked its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2021, including by hosting a commemorative event in October.

16. The President also gave an overview of various activities undertaken by the Tribunal to further capacity-building, which had continued in 2021, notwithstanding the pandemic, including the internship programme, a nine-month capacity-building and training programme on dispute settlement supported by the Nippon Foundation, and a regional workshop in Malta co-organized with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Maritime Law Institute. The Tribunal was also planning the return of the annual summer academy in 2022, organized by the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea. The President noted that a workshop funded by the Republic of Korea for legal advisers, which was originally scheduled for 2020, had been postponed owing to the pandemic and would instead take place in September 2022. The President also informed the Meeting that the Tribunal had established a Junior Professional Officer programme for young professionals to serve in the Tribunal's Registry.

17. The President described the mandate and jurisdiction of the Tribunal and observed in that context the possibility of including the advisory jurisdiction of the

Tribunal in the dispute settlement mechanism under the new agreement being negotiated by the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

18. In the ensuing discussions, a group of States and several delegations underscored their full support for the Tribunal and highlighted its contribution to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Convention, the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of law and a predictable maritime order. A group of States and several delegations further commended the Tribunal's judicial, legal and administrative work and its capacity-building activities, in particular in the light of the challenges associated with their delivery during the pandemic. Some delegations also commended the Tribunal for embracing new technologies and working methods.

19. Some delegations congratulated the Tribunal on its anniversary, remarking on its salient contributions to international dispute settlement, including recently through the proactive approach taken to provisional measures in case No. 29, *The M/T "San Padre Pio" (No. 2) case (Switzerland/Nigeria)*, which had contributed to the discontinuance of those proceedings. A delegation welcomed the amendment of the Rules of the Tribunal to render them gender-neutral and the information concerning the status of declarations made under articles 297 and 298 of the Convention.

20. The Meeting took note of the report of the Tribunal for 2021.

B. Administrative and budgetary matters

1. Report on budgetary matters for the financial period 2021

21. The Registrar of the Tribunal, Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce, introduced the report on budgetary matters for the financial period 2021 ([SPLOS/32/3](#)).

(a) Budget performance report for 2021

22. The Registrar drew attention to information contained in section I of the report and to the related annex, noting that the total expenditure for 2021 stood at €8,994,216, representing 74.47 percent of the total appropriations allocated for that year. The report showed that the expenses against the 2021 case-related budget of the Tribunal were at a very low level, owing mainly to the removal of case No. 29 from the list of cases. The Registrar also pointed out that, while the pandemic had led to some savings, the organization of hybrid meetings had also led to additional expenses. She informed the Meeting that the unused balance of the case-related budget would be surrendered to the State parties with the 2021–2022 cash surplus, noting that case No. 28 would be handled in 2022 and 2023.

23. The Registrar also provided details on the overexpenditure relating to communications and miscellaneous services and charges, including bank charges. She explained that the slight overexpenditure concerning communications was due to rising prices. With regard to miscellaneous services and charges, she stated that, in 2014, the European Central Bank had started charging commercial banks interest on cash deposits and that, in 2019, the Deutsche Bank and other commercial banks in the euro zone had begun to pass those bank charges on cash deposits onto their customers. Since April 2020, the Tribunal had been required to pay interest on its cash funds, amounting to €38,900 in 2021. She further noted that banks would continue to charge interest on cash deposits and that there were no other options currently available to the Tribunal. The Registrar observed that, if the overexpenditure costs could not be

covered under section 7, “Operating expenditure”, a request for an authorization of transfer between appropriate sections would be submitted to the Meeting.

24. A group of States and several delegations took note of the information provided by the Registrar regarding the circumstances related to the pandemic and the removal of case No. 29 from the Tribunal’s list of cases. One delegation encouraged the Tribunal to continue its budget reduction efforts in the future, in the light of the budget requirements and budget performance. Several delegations and one group of States expressed concern over the new cash fund interest charges, which had not been anticipated at the time of the adoption of the 2021–2022 budget, and encouraged the Tribunal to continue to explore options to minimize or avoid those charges. One delegation suggested that the Tribunal evaluate whether the negative interest rates charged by banks were compatible with articles 8 and 15 of its headquarters agreement.

25. Several delegations and one group of States noted with appreciation the Registrar’s thorough management of the budget during exceptional circumstances.

(b) Report on action taken pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal

26. Referring to the cash surplus for the financial period 2019–2020 described in section II of the report, the Registrar stated that the amount of cash surplus reviewed and certified by the auditor stood at €384,387 and that it would be surrendered and deducted from the contributions of States parties for 2023, in accordance with regulation 4.5 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal.

27. The Registrar also referred to paragraphs 19 to 26 of the report, which contained details regarding the investment of funds of the Tribunal, the trust fund for the Tribunal, the Nippon Foundation trust fund and the workshop for legal advisers sponsored by the Republic of Korea.

28. The Meeting took note, with satisfaction, of the report on budgetary matters for the financial period 2021.

2. Report of the external auditor for the financial period 2021

29. The Registrar introduced the report of the external auditor for the financial period 2021, with financial statements of the Tribunal as at 31 December 2021 (SPLOS/32/4). The report had been submitted to the Tribunal on 17 February 2022 and examined during its session in March 2022. According to the auditor, on the basis of the knowledge obtained, the financial statements provided a true and fair view of the Tribunal’s net assets, liabilities and financial position for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021 in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

30. The Meeting took note, with satisfaction, of the report of the external auditor for the financial period 2021.

3. Draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the budget period 2023–2024

31. The Registrar introduced the budget proposals of the Tribunal for the budget period 2023–2024 (SPLOS/32/5) and highlighted the fact that the overall budget proposed for the next biennium amounted to €23,496,500, representing a decrease of €658,500 compared with the approved budget for the period 2021–2022. The Registrar reported that, with the exception of case-related expenditure, the budget for the period 2023–2024 continued to be guided by an overall zero-growth approach. As with previous budgets, the 2023–2024 budget proposals also envisaged the possibility

of two urgent cases being submitted to the Tribunal. She emphasized that the amount proposed in that regard (€1,667,400) was slightly higher (by €58,800) than the amount approved for the 2021–2022 financial period, owing to parameters beyond the control of the Tribunal. However, the Tribunal would make best efforts to optimize efficiently and reduce costs while handling cases.

32. The Registrar then responded to questions raised by one delegation, including concerning the nature of operating expenditure, the costs of the rental and maintenance of equipment, the need to recruit temporary staff, professional training needs for staff, and library expenses and related costs. One delegation reiterated its view that the budget should be guided by zero nominal growth but said that it was nevertheless prepared to adopt the budget proposals. One group of States noted the Tribunal's commitment to request an authorization of transfer regarding overexpenditure or cash surplus during the next Meeting of States Parties and stated that it was prepared to adopt the budget proposals of the Tribunal for the period 2023–2024.

33. In the light of the statements made by several delegations, the Meeting waived the application of rule 54 of the rules of procedure, took note of the draft budget proposals of the Tribunal for the financial period 2023–2024, and approved the amount of €23,443,900 as the budget of the Tribunal for the period 2023–2024, on the basis of a decrease of €52,600 in the budget line “Pension in payment” (see [SPLOS/32/12](#)).

4. Nomination of a member and an alternate member to the staff pension committee of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

34. The Registrar referred to the note by the Tribunal on the nomination of a member and an alternate member to the staff pension committee of the Tribunal ([SPLOS/32/6](#)) and proposed that the Meeting take a decision as contained in the annex to the note.

35. One group of States expressed support for the proposal by the Tribunal.

36. The Meeting considered the note by the Tribunal and subsequently decided to extend the nominations of Indonesia as a member and Canada as an alternate member of the staff pension committee for a three-year term of office starting on 1 January 2023 ([SPLOS/32/13](#)).

V. Information on the activities of the International Seabed Authority

37. The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Michael Lodge, provided information on the activities carried out by the Authority since the thirty-first Meeting, noting that in-person meetings of the Council and the Assembly of the Authority had resumed in December 2021.

38. In terms of its substantive work, the Secretary-General of the Authority noted that the Council had adopted by consensus a road map for accelerated work on the draft exploitation regulations, aiming at their adoption by July 2023. He indicated that good progress had been made in accordance with the road map in the first part of the twenty-seventh session of the Authority, in particular by an informal working group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment. He noted that the draft regulations were well advanced and had the benefit of detailed expert scrutiny by the Legal and Technical Commission of the Authority, as well as the widest possible public consultation.

39. With regard to its other priorities, the Secretary-General of the Authority noted that the Legal and Technical Commission would undertake a final review of the draft regional environmental management plan for the northern part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, following public consultation and review of the comments received.

40. In terms of recent initiatives, the Secretary-General of the Authority drew attention to progress on the Women in Deep-Sea Research project, which was intended to address the critical barriers preventing women's empowerment and leadership in deep-sea research-related disciplines and activities; the AREA2030 initiative, which had been launched in collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization to encourage exploration contractors to voluntarily submit high-resolution bathymetric data to the Organization in order to improve mapping of the global seafloor by 2030 as a contribution to the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; and the launch of an impact group on research and oceans for women, in collaboration with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tonga and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the United Nations Legal Counsel. He also noted progress on collaborative initiatives to advance research related to the environmental effects of activities in the Area. He further informed delegations that a strategy for a programmatic approach to capacity development that would represent a major step forward in the delivery of support to developing countries would be presented to the Assembly in July 2022.

41. With respect to the financial situation of the Authority, the Secretary-General noted that, as at May 2022, 75 per cent of assessed contributions had been paid and that all exploration contractors had paid their annual overhead charge. He observed, however, that 57 States had been in arrears for more than two years and that a further 8 States had never paid any contribution, and thus urged the States concerned to pay their contributions without delay.

42. In the ensuing discussions, delegations expressed support for the Authority in fulfilling its mandate, notwithstanding difficulties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many delegations, including two groups of States, highlighted the role of the Authority in organizing, regulating and controlling activities in the Area on behalf of and for the benefit of humankind and in ensuring effective protection of the marine environment, and of human life, from the harmful effects of activities in the Area. The potential for activities in the Area to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was noted, with one group of States and a delegation underscoring that the deep ocean floor contained many minerals required for renewable energy technologies.

43. Many delegations and some groups of States welcomed the progress made by the Authority in developing the regulatory framework for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and noted, in particular, the adoption of a road map to adopt the regulations by July 2023.

44. The importance of ensuring a balance between mineral exploitation and environmental protection in developing the framework for activities in the Area was underscored by a group of States and some delegations. Some delegations underscored the need to protect the marine environment of the Area, with one delegation stressing the need for the application of effective environmental standards and another delegation indicating that deep-sea mining should not proceed unless the marine environment was effectively protected. One delegation highlighted that the breadth of scientific understanding of the impact of potential activities on the oceans, in particular in its role as a carbon sink, was lacking. The delegation expressed concern over the request made by Nauru in 2021 pursuant to paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 that triggered the

two-year period within which the Authority was required to finalize regulations to facilitate the approval of plans of work for exploitation in the Area and presented a position paper calling for a 15-year extension of the deadline, citing disruptions to the work of the Authority due to the pandemic and the need to obtain sufficient scientific information to avoid potentially irreversible damage to deep-sea ecosystems (SPLOS/32/14). The need to apply a precautionary approach for open, transparent and inclusive decision-making processes was also highlighted by a group of States and some delegations, which noted that the operationalization of the enterprise was also a priority, while one group of States indicated that that priority should not be to the detriment of land-based mining economies.

45. A group of States and some delegations highlighted the Authority's capacity-building activities and its role in promoting the participation of developing countries in the work of the Authority. One delegation stated that the Authority had a duty to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found in the Area, noting the enduring historical and cultural significance of the Atlantic seabed in relation to the slave trade and the deaths of enslaved persons at sea.

46. The Meeting took note of the information reported by the Secretary-General of the Authority.

VI. Matters related to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

A. Information reported by the Chair of the Commission

47. The Chair of the Commission, Adnan Rashid Nasser Al-Azri, provided information on the progress of work of the Commission since the thirty-first Meeting, including on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the Commission, which had resulted in the postponement of its fifty-third session until the end of 2021 and the shortening of its fifty-fourth session early in 2022. Further to the information contained in his letter dated 28 March 2022 to the President of the Meeting (SPLOS/32/7), the Chair informed the Meeting that two new submissions had been received since then, bringing the total number to 101, including 9 revised submissions. The Chair highlighted that one seat in the Commission allocated to a member from the Group of Eastern European States had remained vacant since before the current members had been elected in 2017 and noted that the list of candidates for election at the thirty-second Meeting was once again one candidate short of fulfilling the minimum requirement of electing at least three members from each geographical region. He expressed hope that the Meeting would find a solution to that long-standing issue, ensuring equitable geographical representation in the Commission and an effective discharge of its mandate.

48. The Chair of the Commission recalled the decision made at the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties to extend the term of office of the current members of the Commission for one additional year, until 15 June 2023 (SPLOS/31/9). He noted that the resulting one-year gap between the elections at the thirty-second Meeting and the assumption of functions by the newly elected or re-elected members in 2023 would have a number of indirect and practical benefits, and he invited the Meeting to consider continuing to hold elections of members of the Commission that would provide for a one-year gap between the election of members and the start of the term of office of newly elected members.

49. In the ensuing discussions, two groups of States and several delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Commission, especially in the light of the challenges that it faced with respect to its high workload, the conditions

of service of its members and the pandemic. One group of States and some delegations noted with satisfaction that the Commission had resumed its work in person, albeit with some limitations due to the pandemic. Many delegations and two groups of States highlighted the importance of the work of the Commission for the exercise by coastal States of their sovereign rights and jurisdiction, and the timely delineation of the limits of the Area. The importance of the Commission for the implementation of the Convention and for international peace and security was noted. The hope was expressed by some delegations that the one-year extension of the term of office of current members of the Commission would enable it to finalize some recommendations with regard to submissions that were at an advanced stage of consideration.

50. One delegation voiced its support for the ongoing adherence to the Convention and the rules of procedure in the work of the Commission, in particular with regard to disputes. Another delegation noted that any initiative to reform the rules of procedure, which had been successfully applied for almost three decades, should be approached with the utmost caution and should respect the principles reflected in that instrument.

51. Several delegations underscored the scientific and technical nature and independence of the Commission and its members. One delegation highlighted the importance of achieving gender balance in the Commission. Another delegation noted that capacity challenges could have an impact on diversity in the Commission. Several delegations and one group of States expressed their condolences regarding the passing away of Jair Alberto Ribas Marques, former member and Vice-Chair, and highlighted his important contributions to the work of the Commission.

52. Delegations expressed concern over the high workload of the Commission, the related backlog of submissions and the increasing waiting time between the making of a submission and the establishment of a subcommission, which had negative effects owing to the ageing of submissions and the challenges faced by submitting States in terms of sustainable development and institutional arrangements and of financial resources. Some delegations acknowledged factors beyond the control of the Commission. Some delegations and one group of States indicated that the increase in the workload of the Commission reflected the high expectations of the international community with regard to the Commission and the successful implementation of the Convention with respect to the continental shelf. A delegation expressed disappointment that, at the fifty-fourth session, the Commission had not established a subcommission to consider its amended submission.

53. Some delegations and one group of States indicated that urgent measures were required to expedite the consideration of submissions and eliminate the backlog. It was suggested that sufficient support must be provided so that the Commission could carry out its work and so that cooperation and capacity-building could be enhanced so as to ensure that developing States that had made submissions to the Commission retained the necessary expertise during the time that intervened between the making of a submission and its consideration by the Commission. One group of States noted in that context that, under rule 51 of the rules of procedure, submissions could be considered by the Commission as a whole, suggesting that that approach could be suitable when the relatively small size and lack of complexity of a submission would not require the more in-depth examination that took place at the subcommission level. Other delegations in general encouraged the Commission to explore potential innovative solutions and effective ways of working, while continuing to uphold the highest standards of work and ensuring confidentiality.

54. Several delegations and a group of States raised concerns over the ongoing vacancy in the Commission and called for a solution to be identified, either through

the nomination of a candidate from the regional group concerned or through other means. Some delegations also expressed concerns over the absenteeism of certain members of the Commission and the resulting lack of quorum in some subcommissions.

55. Several delegations and a group of States mentioned their contributions or pledges to the voluntary trust fund to defray the participation costs of members of the Commission and called upon other States parties to do the same. In that regard, some delegations expressed their concern over the lack of an appropriate mechanism to ensure that the balance of the trust fund was maintained at an adequate and predictable level.

56. Several delegations noted with appreciation the high quality of services rendered to the Commission by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. A delegation urged the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures within the overall existing resources to further strengthen the capacity of the Division to ensure the provision of enhanced support and assistance to the Commission.

57. The Meeting took note of the information reported by the Chair of the Commission.

58. Subsequently, the Meeting considered a proposal by Malta regarding the pattern of elections and of the commencement of the term of office of members of the Commission (CLCS/32/L.2). Several delegations and a group of States expressed support for a decision to continue to hold elections of the Commission one year before the expiration of their terms of office, in the light of the potential administrative and logistical benefits. While recognizing those potential benefits, one delegation raised questions about the unintended consequences that such a decision could have and suggested that further consideration be given to the proposal so that an informed decision could be made prior to the next election of the members of the Commission. The Meeting then decided to include the issue of the pattern of elections and of the commencement of the term of office of members of the Commission in the agenda of the thirty-third Meeting.

B. Conditions of service of the members of the Commission

Report of the Open-ended Working Group

59. Sidney Gregory Kemble (Netherlands), one of the Co-Coordiators of the Open-ended Working Group, provided information about the progress made by the Working Group since the thirty-first Meeting, also on behalf of the other Co-Coordinator, María Alejandrina Sande (Uruguay). He noted that, while some informal discussions had taken place, it had not been possible to convene intersessional meetings of the Working Group or the regional groups. In that context, he reminded delegations of the proposal made by the Co-Coordiators for a funding mechanism with respect to the voluntary trust fund, whereby nominating States that were developed States and other nominating States that were in a position to do so would act as guarantors of the trust fund.

60. During the plenary session, several delegations commended the efforts of the Co-Coordiators and States parties and highlighted the need to find efficient, sustainable and permanent solutions to improve the conditions of service and ensure the full attendance of members, thereby enabling the Commission to work with optimum efficiency. Some delegations raised concerns relating to disparities among members and the desire for United Nations standards to be applied as a minimum. Some delegations reiterated their readiness to work towards finding solutions regarding the conditions of work of the members of the Commission.

61. The discussions continued in the context of informal consultations held by the Working Group during the thirty-second Meeting, with some delegations indicating their willingness to continue to consider the proposed funding mechanism, notwithstanding concerns.

62. The Meeting subsequently took note of the information reported by the Co-Coordination and requested that the Working Group continue its intersessional work and that the Co-Coordination report to the thirty-third Meeting.

C. Election of twenty-one members of the Commission

63. On 13 June, the Meeting considered the receivability of the late nomination made by Oman of a candidate for the election of 21 members of the Commission ([SPLOS/32/9/Add.1](#)) and decided to accept it. The President noted that, consequently, there would be a total of 26 nominations for the 21 seats to be filled for a term of five years commencing on 16 June 2023.⁷

64. On 15 June, the Meeting proceeded with the election, which continued on 16 and 17 June. It was held in accordance with article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention.

65. The President referred to the note by the Secretary-General on the election procedures ([SPLOS/32/8](#)), the list of candidates nominated by States parties for election to the Commission ([SPLOS/32/9](#) and [SPLOS/32/9/Add.1](#)) and the note by the Secretary-General on the statements of qualifications of the candidates ([SPLOS/32/10](#)).

66. The President explained the election procedures, drawing attention to the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties.

67. Recalling that, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, no fewer than three members of the Commission should be elected from each geographical region, the President indicated that the arrangement for the allocation of seats on the Tribunal and the Commission would apply, unless the Meeting decided otherwise (see [SPLOS/201](#) and [SPLOS/203](#)). The President stated that, consequently, the regional allocation of the 21 seats for the election would be: 5 seats for members from the Group of African States, 5 seats for members from the Group of Asia-Pacific States, 3 seats for members from the Group of Eastern European States, 4 seats for members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, 3 seats for members from the Group of Western European and other States, and the remaining seat for 1 member from among the African States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Western European and other States.

68. The Meeting agreed that the election would be based on the aforementioned regional allocation of seats and, in accordance with the practice started in 2012, would follow a two-step approach, on the understanding that such an arrangement would not prejudice or affect future arrangements for elections. Considering that there were only two candidates for the three seats allocated for members from the Group of Eastern European States, in the first part of the election 19 members of the Commission would be elected on the basis of the confirmed regional allocation of seats. The Meeting also agreed that five separate ballot papers would be distributed, each containing the list

⁷ The thirty-first Meeting of States Parties decided to extend the term of office of the current members of the Commission for one additional year, until 15 June 2023, on an exceptional basis, owing to the unprecedented circumstances arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (see [SPLOS/31/9](#), para. 86).

of candidates from one of the five regions, and that balloting would continue until the requisite number of candidates for each region had obtained the highest number of votes and the required majority.

69. The second part of the election would be exclusively for the “remaining seat”, limiting the election to those candidates from the African States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Western European and other States who had not been elected in the first part. There would be a single ballot paper. Balloting would continue until a single candidate from one of those groups had obtained the highest number of votes and the required majority.

70. In that regard, the Meeting agreed that, in both the first and the second part of the election, in the event of more than one round of balloting, restricted balloting would apply, as set out in the rules of procedure.

71. The elections were held by secret ballot. Members of the delegations of Chad, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Guyana, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland acted as tellers. Thirteen rounds of balloting took place.

72. In the first part of the election, the following 19 candidates were elected as members of the Commission: Adnan Rashid Nasser Al-Azri (Oman), Lawrence Asangongo Apaalse (Ghana), Harald Brekke (Norway), Efren Perez Carandang (Philippines), Mateusz Damrat (Poland), Aldino Manuel dos Santos de Campos (Portugal), Antonio Fernando Garcez Faria (Brazil), Ivan F. Glumov (Russian Federation), Helena Inniss (Trinidad and Tobago), Miloud Loukili (Morocco), Domingos de Carvalho Viana Moreira (Angola), David Cole Mosher (Canada), Simon Njuguna (Kenya), Tolojanahary Randriamiantsoa (Madagascar), Rajan Sivaramakrishnan (India), Yong Tang (China), Ariel Hernán Troisi (Argentina), Toshitsugu Yamazaki (Japan) and Gonzalo Alejandro Yáñez Carrizo (Chile). In the second part of the election, Estevão Stefane Mahanjane (Mozambique) was elected.⁸ The 20 candidates were elected as members of the Commission for a five-year term of office, from 16 June 2023 to 15 June 2028.

73. After the completion of the voting process, the President congratulated the members on their election on behalf of the Meeting. Subsequently, in her closing remarks, the President noted with regret that, notwithstanding the appeal for gender equality at all levels in the relevant institutions under the Convention, which had been made by the President of the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties, only one female candidate had been nominated for the elections of the Commission and elected. As a result, the number of future female members of the Commission had been halved, decreasing from two to one.

74. Following the election, the Meeting addressed the issue of the persistent vacancy in the Commission resulting from the lack of sufficient nominations from the Group of Eastern European States.

75. The representative of Estonia, as the representative of the State chairing that Group for the month of June 2022, indicated that there had been no developments in that regard. Recalling the impact of the vacancy on the work of the Commission, the President underscored that it was the responsibility of States parties to ensure that the Commission could operate with full membership.

76. The Meeting subsequently decided that, if the Group of Eastern European States informed the President of the Meeting by 16 September 2022 that candidates had been identified, a call for nominations would be circulated by the Secretary-General. A resumed session of the thirty-second Meeting would then be convened in order to conduct the by-election before the next Meeting of States Parties, subject to the

⁸ For a summary of the balloting, see the annex to the present report.

approval of the General Assembly. If no candidates had been identified by the Group of Eastern European States by 16 September 2022, the Secretary-General would circulate a call for nominations with a view to conducting elections at the thirty-third Meeting of States Parties, to be held in 2023, only if the President of the Meeting received from the Group information about potential candidates no less than 14 weeks prior to the commencement of the thirty-third meeting. 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”.

VII. Reports of the Secretary-General under article 319 of the Convention

77. The Meeting considered the most recent annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea ([A/76/311](#), [A/76/311.Add.1](#) and [A/77/68](#)) that had been submitted to States parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention.

78. Noting the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, many delegations and one group of States lauded it as one of the most successful international treaties ever negotiated and as a milestone for rules-based multilateralism. A group of States and some delegations recalled the contributions of Malta to the Convention, notably the visionary speech made by Ambassador Arvid Pardo before the General Assembly in 1967. A group of States and some delegations called upon States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and its implementing agreements. A delegation seconded the appeal of the Secretary-General in Our Common Agenda for more States to ratify or accede to treaties of universal interest, such as those on the environment, including the Convention.

79. Many delegations and a group of States took the opportunity to reaffirm the enduring role of the Convention as a “constitution for the oceans” establishing the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. The universal character of the Convention was underscored, with some delegations emphasizing that many of its provisions codified customary international law. Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the three bodies established under the Convention and of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

80. One group of States and several delegations emphasized the significant contributions of the Convention, including with respect to the rule of law, international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, navigational rights and duties, the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. It was also noted with appreciation by some delegations that the Convention offered remedies to an unfavourable system of geography imposed upon landlocked States. As a framework instrument, the Convention was described by some delegations as encompassing universal principles while also being sufficiently flexible to address new and emerging challenges and needs at the national, regional and global levels, as evidenced by the conclusion of its two implementing agreements. Several delegations emphasized that contemporary issues, including those related to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the effects of climate change such as sea level rise, loss of biodiversity and pollution, should be resolved within the framework of the Convention.

81. Noting that 2022 was an important year for the oceans with several ocean-related processes and events taking place, many delegations and a group of States remarked that the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 offered a critical opportunity to renew

commitments to ocean governance towards the achievement of Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Many delegations and a group of States also looked forward to the upcoming fifth session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Commending the progress that had been made during the fourth session of the conference, COVID-19 pandemic-related constraints notwithstanding, many delegations and a group of States expressed their support for the finalization of an agreement at the fifth session. Several delegations also welcomed the process made under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme to negotiate an international legally binding instrument by 2024 to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

82. Several delegations highlighted the impact of the pandemic on countries that relied on ocean-related sectors, including small island developing States and archipelagic States, as well as on people who depended on the oceans, including fishers, seafarers and coastal communities, and vulnerable groups, including migrant workers, and women and girls. There had been unprecedented disruptions to ocean-related sectors, including fisheries, shipping and tourism. The observer delegation of IMO noted that, in 2021, it had received a record 95 new reports of seafarer abandonment.

83. Several delegations and a group of States stressed the need to increase efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14, in the light of pandemic-related setbacks and the failure to realize Goal 14 targets that had matured in 2020, and of the importance of the implementation of the Convention towards that end. The importance of capacity-building, partnerships, financing and the transfer of marine technology for both the implementation of Goal 14 and the Convention was highlighted by several delegations, in particular in respect of least developed countries and landlocked developing States. Some delegations noted ongoing national efforts to promote the implementation of the Convention through capacity-building initiatives, while one delegation highlighted that the Alliance of Small Island States was promoting a declaration to enhance scientific knowledge, research capacity and the transfer of marine technology in small island developing States. Appreciation was expressed by some delegations for the important capacity-building activities of the bodies established under the Convention and of intergovernmental organizations to support developing countries in their implementation of the Convention.

84. Some delegations and a group of States emphasized that the challenges faced by humanity, as well as the triple crisis of warming, acidification and oxygen loss in the oceans, gave rise to the urgent need for marine scientific research, highlighting to that end the work of the twenty-second meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which had focused on ocean observing, and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The role of indigenous knowledge in achieving the aims of the Decade was also highlighted by one delegation. Some delegations noted that the Ocean Decade and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, were important initiatives to encourage the use of marine science and strengthen the science-policy interface with a view to achieving ocean sustainability.

85. The disproportionate impact of climate change on coastal States and small island developing States and the need to mitigate those impacts, including intensified disasters and sea level rise, were stressed by several delegations. Some delegations noted that pandemic responses should also address issues related to climate change,

given the interconnectedness of those challenges. Some delegations emphasized that maritime zones must be protected in the face of sea level rise in accordance with the Convention, with support expressed for the preservation of maritime zones without reduction once States had established and deposited information with the Secretary-General. Reference was made in that regard by some delegations to the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise, which had been issued by Pacific Islands Forum member countries in 2021. Some delegations also welcomed the ongoing work of the International Law Commission on the topic.

86. Canada announced the signing on 14 June 2022 of an agreement with Denmark, delimiting a single maritime boundary within 200 nautical miles off the coast and a land boundary on the island of Tartupaluk (Hans Island) and delineating the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the Labrador Sea, rendering it the longest maritime boundary in existence.

87. Concerns were expressed by some delegations regarding threats to maritime security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea and trafficking in persons. One delegation highlighted Security Council resolution [2634 \(2022\)](#) concerning piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, in which the Council called upon Member States in the region to criminalize piracy and armed robbery at sea under their domestic laws and to investigate, prosecute or extradite suspected perpetrators. Another delegation noted with concern the use of maritime autonomous surface ships and called for greater cooperation between IMO, States parties and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to address the matter. The observer delegation of IMO reported on progress towards the regulation of maritime autonomous surface ship operations.

88. Several delegations drew attention to the need to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and highlighted related national and regional initiatives, while noting that capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology would allow for increased surveillance and detection of such practices. One delegation underscored the need to remove fisheries subsidies that contributed to overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

89. With regard to the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait, a delegation raised concerns regarding military activities conducted by another State party resulting in the paralysis of navigation and the destruction of its critical port and shipbuilding infrastructure, including by means of attacks and seizures of merchant vessels and cargo. The delegation also highlighted threats to the marine environment and biodiversity due to spills of oil and other harmful substances, as well as risks to the safety of seafarers and trade and blockages of its ports, which had contributed to the global food crisis. The delegation stressed the need to hold the State party internationally responsible for its territorial invasion as a gross violation of another State's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a breach of the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and the law of the sea. Another delegation, including in exercising the right of reply, stated that it was not responsible for the alleged violations and noted that it had established maritime corridors for the safety of navigation. The delegation further expressed the view that the other delegation was responsible for threats posed by sea mines and the sinking of vessels. Several delegations, one group of States and one observer delegation condemned what they described as acts of aggression and violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity by one State party, noting that such acts had undermined international security and had caused catastrophic loss of life. The observer delegation of IMO stated that it had considered the impacts on shipping and seafarers in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and that its Maritime Safety Committee had called for safe maritime corridors to be established and seafarers to be evacuated from the affected area.

90. With regard to the South China Sea, a delegation characterized the Convention as the ultimate legal source for ocean-related activities, including regarding the conclusion of a code of conduct for the South China Sea. Another delegation reported on progress made in the negotiation of a code of conduct and noted the interest of negotiating parties in resolving territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with international law, including the Convention. Calling for concerted action in respect of the oceans based on consultation and cooperation, another delegation emphasized that matters not addressed by the Convention should be governed by principles of general international law and stressed the importance of State consent in matters relating to international judicial institutions. Another delegation noted that there could be no recourse to general international law with regard to matters covered by the Convention.

91. A delegation reiterated its concern regarding the planned release of wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan into the marine environment, emphasizing the need for coordinated measures and efforts with neighbouring countries and stakeholders in accordance with the Convention and international environmental law.

92. One delegation and one observer delegation expressed the view that the mandate of the Meeting under article 319 of the Convention was restricted to administrative, financial and procedural issues and that the Meeting was not empowered to hold substantive discussions.

93. The Meeting took note of the reports of the Secretary-General under article 319 and the views expressed by delegations under that agenda item and decided to include the same agenda item in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third Meeting.

VIII. Other matters: trust funds and fellowships

94. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea provided information on the status and projected funding requirements of the trust funds established by the General Assembly and administered by the Division since the adjournment of the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties.

95. With regard to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, the Director informed the Meeting that contributions had been received from China, Costa Rica, France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malta, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the European Union. As at 31 May 2022, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$1,090,000. For future sessions, it was projected to cost \$132,000 per session, plus programme support costs, to defray the cost of participation of six members of the Commission. An additional cost of approximately \$180,000, plus programme support costs, would be incurred annually to provide reimbursement of the United Nations Headquarters medical insurance to six members of the Commission. The estimates were based on the assumption that the Secretariat would receive the same number of requests for assistance as received for recent past sessions. The Director noted the possibility of funds being depleted as in-person meetings resumed and encouraged member States to provide support and assistance by making contributions to the fund.

96. With respect to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, no contributions had been received since the last Meeting of State Parties. As at 31 May 2022, the fund

had an approximate balance of \$410,000 and a total of three States had received assistance.

97. Regarding the voluntary trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, contributions had been made by Malta and the Philippines, and no applications for assistance had been received. As at 31 May 2022, the fund had an approximate balance of \$182,000.

98. With respect to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, contributions had been received from Ireland, Monaco and the United Kingdom. The Director noted that, owing to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to travel restrictions, the winner of the 2020 fellowship had chosen to conduct her fellowship in 2023. As at 31 May 2022, the fund had an approximate balance of \$154,000. The Director urged States to make additional contributions, given that the fund has been chronically underfunded.

99. With regard to the voluntary trust fund for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, contributions had been received from Ireland, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. As at 31 May 2022, the fund had an approximate balance of \$223,000.

100. Regarding the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, a contribution had been received from New Zealand. As at the end of May 2022, the fund had an approximate balance of \$52,000.

101. With regard to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and an intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, contributions had been received from Finland, France, Ireland and New Zealand, as well as the European Union. As at 31 May 2022, the fund had an approximate balance of \$219,000.

102. The Director expressed the gratitude of the Secretariat to all States that had made contributions to the trust funds. He emphasized that the chronic underfunding of the trust funds was a serious problem and reiterated the appeal contained in General Assembly resolution [76/72](#) to States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds. Furthermore, he noted the implications for the trust funds posed by late applications and cancellations or “no shows” after the issuance of air tickets and urged delegations to cooperate with the Secretariat in meeting the demands of the trust funds. In addition, he provided administrative details concerning the modalities of the transfer of the contributions to the trust funds, to ensure their timely allocation and availability for disbursement.

103. The Meeting took note of the information on trust funds and fellowships that had been provided by the Secretariat.

Annex

Summary of the balloting for the election of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. The first part of the election, held on 15 June 2022, required four rounds of balloting. In the first round of balloting, for the African States, of the 167 ballots cast, with 2 invalid ballots and 1 abstention, a majority of 110 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Lawrence Asangongo Apaalse (Ghana) (131 votes), Simon Njuguna (Kenya) (123 votes), Miloud Loukili (Morocco) (117 votes), Domingos de Carvalho Viana Moreira (Angola) (116 votes) and Tolojanahary Randriamiantsoa (Madagascar) (115 votes) were elected. For the Asia-Pacific States, of the 167 ballots cast, with 4 invalid ballots and no abstentions, a majority of 109 votes was required for election. None of the nine candidates obtained the required majority. For the Eastern European States, of the 167 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and 2 abstentions, a majority of 110 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Mateusz Damrat (Poland) (150 votes) was elected. For the Latin American and Caribbean States, of the 167 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and 1 abstention, a majority of 111 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Helena Inniss (Trinidad and Tobago) (161 votes), Gonzalo Alejandro Yáñez Carrizo (Chile) (156 votes), Ariel Hernán Troisi (Argentina) (154 votes) and Antonio Fernando Garcez Faria (Brazil) (151 votes) were elected. For the Western European and other States, of the 167 ballots cast, with 1 invalid ballot and 3 abstentions, a majority of 109 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Aldino Manuel dos Santos de Campos (Portugal) (136 votes), David Cole Mosher (Canada) (121 votes) and Harald Brekke (Norway) (112 votes) were elected. Thus, 13 candidates were elected as members of the Commission in the first round. A second, restricted round of balloting was held for the Asia-Pacific States and the Eastern European States. For the Asia-Pacific States, of the 167 ballots cast, with 2 invalid ballots and no abstentions, a majority of 110 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Yong Tang (China) (113 votes), Rajan Sivaramakrishnan (India) (112 votes) and Toshitsugu Yamazaki (Japan) (112 votes) were elected. For the Eastern European States, of the 167 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and 61 abstentions, a majority of 71 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Ivan F. Glumov (Russian Federation) (106 votes) was elected. A third, restricted round of balloting was held for the Asia-Pacific States, being limited to the four candidates that had obtained the highest number of votes in the previous round of balloting. Of the 164 ballots cast, with 2 invalid ballots and no abstentions, a majority of 108 votes was required for election. None of the four candidates obtained the required majority. A fourth, restricted round of balloting was held for the Asia-Pacific States. Of the 164 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and no abstentions, a majority of 110 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Adnan Rashid Nasser Al-Azri (Oman) (116 votes) and Efren Perez Carandang (Philippines) (113 votes) were elected.

2. Ahead of the second part of the election, the President was informed by the delegation of Algeria of the withdrawal of its candidate.

3. The second part of the election, held from 15 to 17 June 2022, required nine rounds of balloting. Being limited to those candidates from the Asia-Pacific, African and Western European and other States who had not been elected in the first part of the election, it involved Pham Huy Giao (Viet Nam), Hyun-Chul Han (Republic of Korea), Muhammad Khalid (Pakistan), Mazlan bin Madon (Malaysia), Estevão

Stefane Mahanjane (Mozambique) and Walter R. Roest (Netherlands).¹ In the first round of balloting, of the 164 ballots cast, with 1 invalid ballot and no abstentions, a majority of 109 votes was required for election. None of the six candidates obtained the required majority. A second, restricted round of balloting was held, being limited to the two candidates who had obtained the highest number of votes in the previous round of balloting. Of the 162 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and 4 abstentions, a majority of 106 votes was required for election. Neither of the two candidates obtained the required majority. A third, restricted round of balloting was held. Of the 159 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and 4 abstentions, a majority of 104 votes was required for election. Neither of the two candidates obtained the required majority. A fourth, restricted round of balloting was held. Of the 160 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and 4 abstentions, a majority of 104 votes was required for election. Neither of the two candidates obtained the required majority. The President was informed by the delegation of Malaysia of the withdrawal of that country's candidate. A fifth, unrestricted round of balloting was held. Of the 160 ballots cast, with 1 invalid ballot and 1 abstention, a majority of 106 votes was required for election. None of the five candidates obtained the required majority. The President was informed by the delegations of the Republic of Korea and of Viet Nam of the withdrawal of the candidates of those countries. A sixth, unrestricted round of balloting was held. Of the 159 ballots cast, with 1 invalid ballot and 1 abstention, a majority of 105 votes was required for election. None of the three candidates obtained the required majority. A seventh, unrestricted round of balloting was held. Of the 158 ballots cast, with no invalid ballots and one abstention, a majority of 105 votes was required for election. None of the three candidates obtained the required majority. An eighth, restricted round of balloting was held, being limited to the two candidates who had obtained the highest number of votes in the previous round of balloting. Of the 146 ballots cast, with 1 invalid ballot and 3 abstentions, a majority of 95 votes was required for election. Neither of the two candidates obtained the required majority. The representative of France made a statement withdrawing the candidate of France. A ninth, restricted round of balloting was held. Of the 149 ballots cast, with 1 invalid ballot and 7 abstentions, a majority of 94 votes was required for election. Having obtained the required majority of votes, Estevão Stefane Mahanjane (Mozambique) (141 votes) was elected.

¹ Nominated by France, undertaking to support the candidate in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention on the Law of the Sea.