



**INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER**

Press Release

**PRESIDENT YANAI REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE TRIBUNAL'S INCREASING JUDICIAL WORKLOAD**

The President of the Tribunal, Judge Shunji Yanai, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations on Monday, 9 December 2013, during the Assembly's annual debate on "Oceans and the Law of the Sea". He gave a review of the increasing judicial workload of the Tribunal, informing the delegates that during the past twelve months the Tribunal had delivered one Judgment on the merits in the *M/V "Louisa" Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Kingdom of Spain)* and two Orders on requests for provisional measures in the "*ARA Libertad*" Case (*Argentina v. Ghana*) and the *Arctic Sunrise Case (Kingdom of the Netherlands v. Russian Federation)*.

Looking ahead to 2014, the President noted that the Tribunal was currently deliberating on the *M/V "Virginia G" Case (Panama/Guinea-Bissau)*, in which it expected to deliver its Judgment in the spring. He also informed the General Assembly that, by 29 November 2013, written statements had been submitted by 18 States Parties and 6 intergovernmental organizations regarding the Request for an Advisory Opinion regarding IUU fishing activities submitted to the Tribunal by the Dakar-based Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.

Recalling that one of the fundamental goals of the Convention was to contribute "to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations", President Yanai highlighted the importance of abiding by the compulsory procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes established by the Convention. The President emphasized that a "well-functioning dispute resolution system contributes to the sound implementation of the legal regime for the seas and oceans set out in the Convention" and noted that a necessary condition for the implementation of that system was the requirement in article 33 of the Statute that the Tribunal's decisions be complied with by all the parties to the dispute.

The President closed his statement with a brief outline of the capacity-building and training programmes of the Tribunal (the latest regional workshop held in Mexico City, the ITLOS/Nippon Foundation training programme for young government officials and researchers, the Tribunal's internship programme for students and the annual Summer Academy of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea), which aim to disseminate knowledge of the Convention and promote the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance therewith, and expressed his gratitude to those who have provided financial and organizational support for these programmes.

The text of the President's statement may be found on the Tribunal's website.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents
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The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org