



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

Press Release

**PRESIDENT PAIK ADDRESSES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
EMPHASIZING THE TRIBUNAL'S INCREASING ATTRACTION
FOR STATES SEEKING TO SETTLE DISPUTES ARISING UNDER THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

President Paik gave his annual address to the plenary of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 74(a) "Oceans and the law of the sea" on 10 December 2019, providing delegates with his annual review of the judicial work of the Tribunal.

The President informed the Assembly that the Tribunal had experienced a productive year, delivering one judgment and two orders covering a range of legal issues, including the freedom of navigation, exclusive flag State jurisdiction on the high seas, and the military activities exception to compulsory dispute settlement. The President stated that the Tribunal's interpretation and application of key provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea had provided States with greater clarity on their rights and obligations thereunder.

President Paik updated the Assembly with information about the latest case submitted to the Tribunal relating to the dispute concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. The dispute, in which Annex VII arbitral proceedings had originally been initiated by Mauritius, was transmitted to a special chamber of the Tribunal by special agreement in September. President Paik highlighted the fact that "the willingness of Mauritius and Maldives to transfer their dispute from Annex VII arbitration to the Tribunal is a testament to the Tribunal's reputation for effective and efficient dispute settlement", highlighting the "flexibility the Tribunal offers - in terms of the size and composition of special chambers - to hear a particular dispute".

Referring to the new international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the President urged the Assembly to consider an appropriate system for dispute settlement.

President Paik stressed the importance of the Tribunal's capacity-building programmes, thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay for its recent cooperation in hosting a regional workshop in Montevideo and the Korea Maritime Institute for its financial support. President Paik also mentioned the Tribunal's internship and fellowship programmes and thanked the Nippon Foundation, the Korea

Maritime Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China for their support for these programmes.

Closing his statement, President Paik announced that the Judges of the Tribunal had in September elected Ms Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce, of Chilean nationality, as the first female Registrar of the Tribunal.

The President's statement is available on the Tribunal's [website](#).

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

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