



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

Press Release

PRESIDENT JESUS ADDRESSES THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

President José Luís Jesus addressed the twenty-first Meeting of the 162 States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 13 June 2011 at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. On this occasion, he presented the Annual Report of the Tribunal for 2010. Highlighting the main points in the report, he recalled that the Tribunal had considered certain legal and judicial matters of relevance to its Rules and judicial procedures during its two sessions in 2010, as well as organizational, administrative and budgetary matters. He noted that the proceedings in Case 16 relating to the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh/Myanmar)* were running their course and that the final written pleading should be filed by 1 July. With oral proceedings scheduled for September, the President stated that the Judgment should be delivered during the first quarter of 2012.

The President made reference to the Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the International Seabed Authority to the Seabed Disputes Chamber on the *Responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area*. The first advisory opinion delivered by the Chamber was unanimously rendered on 1 February 2011.

Turning to *The M/V "Louisa" Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Kingdom of Spain)*, President Jesus explained that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had filed an application on 23 November 2010 against Spain relating to their dispute over the latter's arrest in February 2006 of the M/V "Louisa", flying the flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The applicant, which maintains that the vessel had a valid permit from the coastal State to conduct scientific research on the sea floor in the Bay of Cadiz, has asked the Tribunal to award it damages of no less than \$10 million, and to order Spain to release the vessel and return the property seized. He also informed the Meeting that the application submitted by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also included a request for the prescription of provisional measures. Oral proceedings on the request for provisional measures were held on 10 and 11 December 2010 and the Tribunal delivered its Order on 23 December 2010. The President informed the Meeting that the time-limits for filing the written pleadings in this case have been set by orders of the President of the Tribunal. The first round of the written phase is scheduled to conclude by 10 November 2011.

The President also mentioned the fact that, in accordance with article 3 of Annex VII to the Convention, in 2010 he had appointed three arbitrators, including the president, of the Annex VII arbitral tribunal set up to settle the dispute between Bangladesh and India over the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. In March 2011, he had also been called upon to appoint three arbitrators, including the president, of the Annex VII arbitral tribunal established to settle the dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom over the marine protected area relating to the Chagos Archipelago.

The President closed his statement with a reference to the capacity-building programmes organized by the Tribunal and the voluntary trust fund it has established for training in the law-of-the-sea and maritime fields. The fund is designed to provide financial aid for applicants from developing countries to participate in the Tribunal's Summer Academy and internship programme. He also mentioned the eight regional workshops organized by the Tribunal to promote a greater understanding of the dispute-settlement system established by the Convention; these have been partly funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

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