



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

Press Release

(Issued by the Registry)

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS OF SEVEN JUDGES

New York, 24 May. Today, the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, filled the places of seven of the 21 Judges whose terms of office end on 1 October 1999. They re-elected the following Judges for a nine year term: Joseph Akl (Lebanon), Paul Bamela Engo (Cameroon), P. Chandrasekhara Rao (India), Anatoly Lazarevich Kolodkin (Russian Federation), Vicente Marotta Rangel (Brazil), and Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany). In addition, they elected Mr. José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde). Biographical information of the elected Judges is provided below.

In a note verbale dated 24 November 1998, the Registrar of the Tribunal invited Governments to submit the names of candidates for the elections to fill the places that expire on 30 September 1999. Ten nominations by ten States Parties to the Convention were duly submitted to the Registrar before nominations closed on 17 February 1999. The Registrar then prepared a list of nominees (document SPLOS/32), which was circulated to the States Parties.

The Judges are elected by secret ballot. Each State Party may nominate up to two candidates from among persons who enjoy the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and are of recognised competence in the field of the law of the sea. The persons elected require a two-thirds majority of the States Parties present and voting.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea requires that geographical distribution be assured and that the Judges represent the principal legal systems of the world. There should be at least three Judges from each geographical group and no two Judges of the Tribunal may be of the same nationality. There are five Judges from the Asian Group, five from the African Group, four from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, four from the Western European and Other States Group, and three from the Eastern European Group of States.

The Judges are elected for nine years and may be re-elected. However, at the first elections a system of rotation was established whereby the term of office of one third of the 21 Judges expires every three years. The first election of the Tribunal was held on 1 August 1996.

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After their terms of office have expired, and if they have not been re-elected, the Judges will continue to sit in a case until the completion of any phase in which they have been involved. In the exercise of their functions, the Judges of the Tribunal are of equal status, irrespective of age, priority of election or length of service.

Judge Joseph Akl

(Member of the Tribunal since 1 October 1996;
President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber since 27 February 1997)

Born: Damour, Lebanon, 5 August 1936. **Education:** Licence (Master's degree) in public law, Faculty of Law, Saint Joseph University, Beirut (1961); Advanced Studies Diploma for Ph.D. in public law, Faculty of Law, University of Paris (1962). **Professional Experience:** Teacher, Ministry of National Education (1956–1963); Assistant Professor of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Saint Joseph University, Beirut (1963–1972 and 1978–1982); Head of Section, Department of Administrative and Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1963–1966); Assistant Director, Department of International Organizations, Conferences and Treaties (1966–1972); First Counsellor, Lebanese Embassy, Washington, D.C. (1972–1978); Legal Adviser and Director of Research and Documentation Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1978–1983 and 1994–1996); Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (1983–1990); Ambassador to Colombia (1991–1994). **Member:** Lebanese delegation to: several sessions of the UN General Assembly; second session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, New Delhi (1968); Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, Lima (1971); UN Conference on Environment, Stockholm (1972); various sessions of the Council of the League of Arab States; twelfth Summit of Kings and Heads of Arab States, Fez (1982); Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Niamey (1982); Non-aligned Summit, Cartagena (1995); Member of the International Law Commission of the League of Arab States (1979–1985, President 1983); Head of the Lebanese delegation to: Diplomatic Conference on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal (1973); twentieth session of the Legal Committee, ICAO (1973); Diplomatic Conference on Succession of States in respect of Treaties, Vienna (1978); Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1979–1982); Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (1996).

Judge Paul Bamela Engo

(Member of the Tribunal since 1 October 1996)

Born: Cameroon, 5 October 1931. **Education:** Lawyer, Jurist; called to the English Bar (Middle Temple Inn, London, 1959). **Professional Experience:** Her Majesty's Crown Counsel, Legal Departments of Lagos, Nigeria, and Southern Cameroons (1959–1961); Magistrate, Southern

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Cameroons (1961–1963); Senior Member, Cameroon’s Federal Judicial Commission of Cameroon(1961–1969); Deputy Agent for Cameroon in the case against the United Kingdom at the International Court of Justice (1963); Minister Counsellor, Cameroon Embassy in Bonn, Germany (1964); Minister Counsellor, Cameroon Embassy in Washington, D.C. (1965–1968); Minister Counsellor (1968–1973), Minister Plenipotentiary (1969), Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the UN; Lecturer on Law of the Sea, Cameroon Institute for International Relations, University of Yaoundé (1973–1979); Technical Adviser, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1973–1982); nominated Cameroon Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the UN (1984); Lecturer on English Common Law, National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM); Senior Counsel for Cameroon in the case Cameroon v. Nigeria at the International Court of Justice (1995–1996). **Member:** Cameroonian and Nigerian Bars (1962–1963); Cameroonian delegation to: Second African Heads of State Conference in Cairo (Legal Adviser 1964); various sessions of the UN General Assembly (Head of delegation 1984–1990); Drafting Committee of the UN Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States (Chairman 1966, Chairman of the Special Committee 1967); Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly (Vice-Chairman 1969, Chairman 1970); UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Seabed and the Ocean Floor (Chairman of the First Subcommittee 1971); UN Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (Chairman of the First Committee 1972–73); Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (Special Representative of the Cameroonian Head of State 1973, Chairman of the First Committee 1973–1982); Presidential Commission on the Law of the Sea (Chairman 1984); Council for Namibia (Chairman of Standing Committee III, 1984; Head of delegation of the Council for Namibia on the first publicity campaign in Asia (Singapore, 1986); African Group that negotiated the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa at the General Assembly (Chairman 1984–1985); UN Human Rights Commission (Vice-Chairman 1985); UN Disarmament Commission (Vice-Chairman 1985–1988, Chairman of Working Group III, 1985–1988); Organization of African Unity Ministerial Conference, Lomé (Rapporteur General and Head of Cameroonian delegation 1985); Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Disarmament and Development (Head of Cameroonian delegation 1985–1986); Third Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign (Vice-President 1986); UN General Assembly (Vice-President 1987–1988); UNICEF Executive Board (Vice-Chairman of Bureau 1989). **Publications:** Author of numerous books and articles on international law, including *Africa’s contribution to Development of International Law: Africa and international organizations*.

Judge P. Chandrasekhara Rao
(Member of the Tribunal since 1 October 1996)

Born: India, 22 April 1936. **Education:** B.A., B.L., M.L., LL.D., University of Madras, India. **Professional Experience:** Research Officer, Indian Society of International Law (1963–1967); Law Officer (1967–1971), Assistant Legal Adviser (1971–1976), Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs; Counsel for the Government of India in the case concerning Appeal relating to the

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Jurisdiction of the International Civil Aviation Organization Council before the International Court of Justice, The Hague (1972); Legal Adviser to the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, New York (1972–1976); Deputy Legislative Counsel, Additional Legal Adviser, Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser, Additional Secretary (1976–1988), Secretary (1988–1996), Union Ministry of Law; Sole Arbitrator in Government contracts (1979–1983); Secretary-General, International Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi (1995–1996); Visiting Professor of Law: Osmania University, Hyderabad (1994–present), Kakatiya University, Warangal (1994–1995), University of Madras (1995–1996). **Member:** Board of Editors, *Indian Journal of International Law* (1970–present); Indian Society of International Law (Vice-President 1994–present); Indian delegation to: Legal Sub-Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1969–1973, 1975); International Legal Conference on Marine Pollution Damage, Brussels (1969); UNCTAD Working Group on International Shipping Legislation, Geneva (1969); UN Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, Geneva (1970); UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of the Seabed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (1971, 1973); Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1973–1976); UN General Assembly (1972–1975); UNCITRAL (Head of delegation 1972, 1988–1994); Legal Committee of the ICAO (1973); *Ad hoc* Committee on International Terrorism (1973); *Ad hoc* Committee on the UN Charter (1975); Commonwealth Law Ministers Meetings held at Bridgetown (1980); Harare (1986); Christchurch (1990); Port Louis (1993); Kuala Lumpur (1996); Ministerial-level Meeting of GATT Contracting Parties, Punta del Este, Uruguay (1986); UN Conference on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade, Vienna (Chairman of Drafting Committee 1990); Meeting of the International Seabed Authority, Kingston (Head of delegation, 1996); Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, New York (Head of delegation 1996). **Publications:** Author of books entitled *The New Law of Maritime Zones* (1982); *The Indian Constitution and International Law* (1993), *The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996: A Commentary* (1997); *Alternative Dispute Resolution: What it means and how it works* (ed.), (1996).

Mr. José Luis Jesus

Born: Cape Verde, 20 September 1950. **Education:** Law Degree, School of Law, Classical University of Lisbon, Portugal; International Law Certificate, Saint John's University, New York; M.A., Government and Politics, Saint John's University, New York. **Professional Experience:** Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Central Africa; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Ambassador of Cape Verde to the UN; Ambassador of Cape Verde to Portugal, Spain and Israel; Legal Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Cape Verde to the UN; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communities. **Member:** Head of Cape Verde delegation to the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1979–1982); Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly (1979–1994); Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Head of delegation 1983–1994, Chairman 1987–1995); Chairman, Group of 77 for the Law of the Sea (1986); Chairman, Group of African States at the UN

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(1986); Head of the Cape Verde delegation to UN Conference on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, Vienna (1986); Panel on Law of the Sea, Peace in Maribus Conference, Malta (1987); Panellist on Seabed Minerals, American Society of International Law, Washington (1988); Chairman, Ad Hoc Security Council Committee on Angola (1992); President, UN Security Council (July, 1992 and November, 1993); Chairman of panel on Law of the Sea, Qatar (1994); Chairman of the National Commission on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, Cape Verde; Cape Verde Bar Association; American Society of International Law. **Publications:** *The practice of African States in the field of the Law of the Sea*, 1990; *The Work of the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention*, 1990; *The Universality of the Law of the Sea Convention*, 1990; *Deep Seabed Mining: The Work of the Preparatory Commission*, 1998; *Recent Developments in the Law of the Sea and the accomplishments of the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*, 1993.

Judge Anatoly Lazarevich Kolodkin
(Member of the Tribunal since 1 October 1996)

Born: St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 27 February 1928. **Education:** Faculty of Law, State University, St. Petersburg (1945–1950); Doctor of Legal Sciences (1971); Professor (1985). **Professional Experience:** Researcher and Head of Department, Central Marine Scientific Research Institute, St. Petersburg (1956–1968); Head of International Law of the Sea Department (1968–1978), Deputy Director (1981–present), State Scientific Research and Project Development Institute of Maritime Transport, Moscow; Director, International Communications Department of the All-Union *Morsvyazsputnik* Association (1978–1981); Professor, Moscow State Law Academy (1994–present); Chairman, National Committee of the Russian Federation on UN Decade of International Law (1996–present); Co-Chairman, Expert Council on International Law of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (1997–present); President, Maritime Law Association (1981–present); President, Russian International Law Association (1994–present). **Member:** Expert Council on Legal Sciences of the Russian Federation Higher Degree Committee (1985–present); Permanent Court of Arbitration (1990–present); Academic Council on International Law, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of the State and Law (1993–present); two Academic Councils of Moscow University (1985–present); International Maritime Committee (Honorary Vice-President 1994–present); Law of the Sea Institute (Council member 1989–1995); Planning Council, International Oceanic Institute *Pacem in Maribus* (1971–present); Delegate to Conference on establishing INMARSAT and sessions of the Assembly and Council (1972–1982); Head of USSR delegations to Diplomatic Conferences on Privileges and Immunities of INMARSAT and on the Headquarters Agreement between INMARSAT and UK Government (1981); Expert, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO; elaborated (co-author) and presented to IMO Draft Convention on the Legal Regime of Vessels in Foreign Ports (1974); elaborated and

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presented to IOC, UNESCO Draft Convention on the Legal Regime of Ocean Data Acquisition Systems (1993 and 1995); USSR delegate and spokesman of East-European States to the Preparatory Groups and the Conference on elaborating and adopting the UN Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships (1982–1986). **Publications:** Author of more than 220 books and articles published in Russia, USA, UK, FRG, Belgium, Italy, etc. on international law, law of the sea, maritime and shipping law and international organizations, including *World Ocean: International Legal Regime* (in Russian), 1973, (in English), 1974; *History of International Law of the Sea*, 1974; *The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Legislative Practice of States* (co-author), 1984; *The International Legal Regime of Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zones* (in Russian), 1992; *Stability in the Law of the Sea—Beyond Confrontation: International Law for the Post-Cold War Era* (co-author, in English), 1995; *International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea—a New Judicial International Institution* (in Russian and in English), 1998.

Judge Vicente Marotta Rangel
(Member of the Tribunal since 1 October 1996)

Born: São Paulo, Brazil, 14 March 1924. **Education:** Bachelor, School of Law, University of São Paulo (1946); Brevet in Juridical Terminology, Institut de Droit Comparé, University of Paris (1949); Doctor of University, University of Paris (1950); Ph.D., School of Law, University of São Paulo (1954); Participant, The Hague Academy of International Law, Centre for studies and research (1960); Visiting Scholar, Columbia University (1972–1973); Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, Parker School in Foreign and Comparative Law (1973). **Professional Experience:** Assistant Professor (1954–1963), Associate Professor (1963–1967), Full Professor (1967–1994), Head of International Law Department (1970–1982), Director of Law School (1982–1986), University of São Paulo; Lecturer, Institute of Public International Law, Thessaloniki (1976); Lecturer, UN/UNITAR, Regional Training Course in International Law, Buenos Aires (1983); Lecturer, The Hague Academy of International Law (1985); Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1990–1993); Professor, University of Brasilia (1990–1993); Member of the Examination Board, Advanced Studies Courses, School of Diplomacy, Instituto Rio Branco (1978–1990); Member of Brazilian delegation to: The Geneva Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law (1974–1977), Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1973–1982), The Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Draft Unidroit Convention on the International Return of Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, Rome (head of delegation, 1995); Director, Legal Department, Brazilian Space Agency (1994–1997). **Member:** Institut de Droit International; American Society of International Law; International Law Association; Instituto Hispano-Luso-Americano de Derecho Internacional, Arbitral Tribunal, Mercosur; Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague (Brazilian group); Association Henri Capitant (Brazilian group); Société Française de Droit International; Asociación Argentina de Derecho Internacional (correspondent); **Publications:** Author of numerous books, articles, monographs and papers in the field of public and private international law, international organizations and the law of the sea.

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Vice-President Rüdiger Wolfrum

(Member of the Tribunal since 1 October 1996; Vice-President since 5 October 1996;
President of the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes since 20 February 1997)

Born: Berlin, Germany, 13 December 1941. **Education:** First State Examination (1969); Second State Examination (1973); Dr. jur., University of Bonn (1973); Habilitation, *venia legendi* for National Public and International Public Law (1980). **Professional Experience:** Assistant Professor, Institute of International Law, University of Bonn (1973–1982); Research fellow, Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia (1977–1978); Professor of National Public and International Public Law, University of Mainz (1982); Professor, Chair of National Public and International Public Law and Director, Institute of International Law, University of Kiel (1982–1993); Vice-Rector, University of Kiel (1990–1993); Judge at the Courts of Appeal for Administrative Matters, Lüneburg and Schleswig (1986–1993); Director, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg (1993–present); Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Heidelberg (1993–present); Vice-President, German Research Foundation (1996–present). **Member:** International Law Association (Board German section, 1994–present); Executive Board, Law of the Sea Institute, University of Hawaii (1994–present); German delegation to: Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1980–1982), Preparatory Commission of the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (1982), 4th Special Consultative Meeting concerning Antarctic mineral resource activities (1983–1988); Chairman of the Legal Working Group of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings preparing an Annex to the Protocol of Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on responsibility for environmental damage (1993–present); UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (1990, re-elected 1994–present). **Publications:** Author and editor of numerous books and articles on various issues of international public law, law of the sea, international environmental law, human rights, United Nations and the Antarctic, including *Internationalization of Common Spaces Outside National Jurisdiction: The Development of an International Administration for Antarctica, Outer Space, High Seas and Deep Seabed* (in German), 1984; *United Nations: law, policies, and practice*, 1995.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal, Wexstrasse 4, 20355 Hamburg, Germany, Tel: (49) (40) 35607-227/228, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275 or United Nations DC-1, suite 1140, New York, NY 10017, Tel: (1) (212) 963-6480, Fax: (1) (212) 963-0908, E-mail: itlos@itlos.hamburg.de

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