



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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New York, 1 July–16 August 2019

Progress of work in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Statement by the Chair

Summary

The present statement provides information on the work carried out during the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. In particular, it contains an overview of the progress made in the examination of the submissions made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean (partial revised submission); Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin (partial revised submission); France and South Africa, jointly, in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands; Kenya; Nigeria; France in respect of Reunion and the Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands; Palau in respect of the North Area (partial amended submission); Côte d'Ivoire; Sri Lanka; Portugal; and Tonga in respect of the eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge. The statement also contains information about presentations made to the Commission regarding new submissions made by France in respect of French Polynesia and by Mauritius concerning the southern Chagos Archipelago region. In addition, it provides information on other issues covered by the Commission during the session, such as the establishment of new subcommissions for the consideration of the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia and of the submission made by India, relevant deliberations at the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the election of officers.



1. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its fiftieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 1 July to 16 August 2019. The plenary parts of the session were held from 29 July to 2 August and from 13 to 16 August 2019.¹ The other parts of the session were devoted to the technical examination of submissions by the respective subcommissions and were held at the geographic information system laboratories of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.
2. The following members of the Commission attended the session: Adnan Rashid Nasser al-Azri, Lawrence Folajimi Awosika, Aldino Campos, Wanda-Lee De Landro-Clarke, Ivan F. Glumov, Martin Vang Heinesen, Mazlan bin Madon, Estevão Stefane Mahanjane, Jair Alberto Ribas Marques, Marcin Mazurowski, Domingos de Carvalho Viana Moreira, David Cole Mosher, Simon Njuguna, Yong Ahn Park, Carlos Marcelo Paterlini, Clodette Raharimananirina, Yong Tang, Toshitsugu Yamazaki and Gonzalo Alejandro Yáñez Carrizo.² Emmanuel Kalngui informed the secretariat of the Commission that he would not be able to attend the session owing to visa-related issues.
3. The Commission had before it the following documents and communications:
 - (a) Provisional agenda (CLCS/50/L.1);
 - (b) Statements by the Chair on the progress of work in the Commission at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions (CLCS/106, CLCS/106/Corr.1 and CLCS/108);
 - (c) Submissions made by coastal States³ pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
 - (d) General Assembly resolution 73/124 on oceans and the law of the sea;
 - (e) Relevant communications from States parties to the Convention and States Members of the United Nations, including from Norway (26 April 2019), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (28 June 2019) and Yemen (7 August 2019).

Item 1

Opening of the fiftieth session

4. The Chair of the Commission, Mr. Park, opened the fiftieth session of the Commission.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel noted the commemoration in 2019 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and the fundamental contribution made by the Commission in helping States parties to implement article 76 of the Convention, which promoted legal certainty and, consequently, international peace and security and economic development. Commending the progress made by the Commission in its consideration of submissions made by coastal States, the Under-Secretary-General also acknowledged the ongoing impediment to the effective functioning of the Commission posed by the vacant seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European

¹ See CLCS/105, para. 88, and General Assembly resolution 73/124, para. 103.

² Mr. Glumov attended the session from 15 July, Mr. Marques from 3 July and Mr. Yáñez Carrizo from 8 July.

³ For a full list of the submissions made to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm.

States. He also drew attention to the various initiatives taken by the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to improve the working conditions of the members of the Commission and reaffirmed the continued support of the Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, for the Commission.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda

6. The Commission considered the provisional agenda ([CLCS/50/L.1](#)) and adopted it without amendments ([CLCS/50/1](#)).

Item 3

Organization of work

7. The Commission approved its programme of work and the schedule for deliberations as outlined by the Chair.

Item 4

Workload of the Commission and working conditions of its members

8. The Commission acknowledged the continued attention given to the conditions of service of its members by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, including through its open-ended working group on the conditions of service of the members of the Commission.

9. During the deliberations on the conditions of service, the members of the Commission reiterated their expectations that States parties would continue their efforts to address the situation and that not only short-term but also reasonable long-term and sustainable solutions would be identified (see [SPLOS/29/6](#)). In response to the request by the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention ([SPLOS/29/9](#), para. 85), the secretariat had conducted a follow-up survey among the members of the Commission.⁴ The Commission took note of the outcome of that survey and requested that a meeting be organized with the recently appointed Co-Coordination of the open-ended working group on the conditions of service of the members of the Commission ([SPLOS/29/9](#), para. 77).

Item 5

Consideration of the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean⁵

10. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Madon, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 1 to 12 July. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission. The subcommission had held two meetings with the delegation of the Russian Federation, headed by the First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Denis G. Khramov. During the meetings, the delegation had made a presentation in response

⁴ For information on the previous survey, see [SPLOS/319](#), paras. 16–27.

⁵ Submission made on 3 August 2015; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_rus_rev1.htm.

to the request for clarification made by the subcommission at the previous session, and the subcommission had provided its response to the presentation. The delegation had indicated that it would provide additional data and information for consideration by the subcommission at the fifty-first session.

11. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

12. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

13. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 11 to 29 November 2019.

Item 6

Consideration of the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin⁶

14. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Awosika, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 5 to 9 August. During that period, the subcommission had conducted the initial examination of the submission, pursuant to section III of annex III to the rules of procedure of the Commission (CLCS/40/Rev.1).

15. The subcommission had held two meetings with the delegation of Brazil, during which the delegation had made detailed presentations on the submission. Subsequently, the subcommission, having completed the preliminary analysis of the submission, had reconfirmed the findings of the Commission⁷ that the test of apurtenance for the Brazilian equatorial margin was satisfied.

16. The Chair of the subcommission also reported on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

17. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission at the fifty-first session.

18. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 14 to 25 October 2019.

⁶ Submission made on 10 April 2015; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bra_rev.htm.

⁷ See www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/bra04/Summary_Recommendations_Brazil.pdf.

Item 7

Consideration of the joint submission made by France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands⁸

19. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Njuguna, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 5 to 9 August. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

20. The subcommission had held three meetings with the joint delegation of France and South Africa, during which the delegation had made presentations in response to the additional clarifications provided by the subcommission at the forty-eighth session with regard to the document presenting its views and general conclusions arising from the examination of the submission, which been transmitted to the joint delegation at the end of the forty-fifth session on the understanding that the document would replace the presentation envisioned under paragraph 10.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure. The subcommission had made a presentation in response to those presentations, in which it had also conveyed its view on the status of consideration of the submission and on a plan for the completion of its consideration. The delegation had indicated that it would communicate its position on the proposed plan in due course following the end of the session.

21. The Chair of the subcommission also reported on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback, including on the proposed plan for the completion of the consideration of the submission, and the subcommission responded to questions.

22. The subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

23. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 21 to 25 October 2019.

Item 8

Consideration of the submission made by Kenya⁹

24. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Heinesen, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 15 to 26 July. During that period, the subcommission had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

25. The subcommission had held two meetings with the delegation of Kenya, during which the delegation and the subcommission had exchanged presentations on the response by the delegation to the observations and comments made by the subcommission at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions and the requests for clarification made by the subcommission during the forty-seventh session. The subcommission had also made a presentation on the progress of its consideration of the submission and the application of the technical requirements of the Statement of Understanding Concerning a Specific Method to Be Used in Establishing the Outer

⁸ Submission made on 6 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_frazaf_34_2009.htm.

⁹ Submission made on 6 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ken_35_2009.htm.

Edge of the Continental Margin, contained in annex II to the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The delegation had transmitted additional data and information to the subcommission during the session. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted additional requests for clarification based on its examination of the data and information submitted to date.

26. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

27. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to consider the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session.

28. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 28 October to 8 November 2019.

Item 9

Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria¹⁰

29. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 1 to 12 July. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the response, submitted by the delegation on the first day of the time allocated for the submission, to the views expressed and conclusions arrived at by the subcommission at the forty-eighth session relating to the base and the foot of the continental slope.

30. The subcommission had held three meetings with the delegation of Nigeria, during which presentations had been made by the delegation and the subcommission regarding the base and the foot of the continental slope. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with its views and conclusions relating to the response by the delegation regarding the base and the foot of the continental slope.

31. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

32. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session.

33. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 11 to 29 November 2019.

¹⁰ Submission made on 7 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_nga_38_2009.htm.

Item 10

Consideration of the submission made by France in respect of Reunion and the Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands¹¹

Report of the subcommission

34. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mosher, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 1 to 12 July. During that period, the subcommission had continued its work, focusing on the preparation of draft recommendations.

35. He recalled that at the forty-ninth session, the subcommission had transmitted a comprehensive presentation to the delegation of its views and general conclusions arising from the examination of the submission pursuant to paragraph 10.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure, in written form, in accordance with the preference of the delegation. Prior to the fiftieth session, the delegation had transmitted to the subcommission a presentation pursuant to paragraph 10.4 of annex III, also in written form.

36. At the fiftieth session, pursuant to paragraph 10.5 of annex III, the subcommission had proceeded to prepare its recommendations. The subcommission had approved the recommendations and submitted them to the Chair of the Commission on 12 July.

Consideration of draft recommendations

37. On 1 August, in a presentation delivered by Messrs. Mosher and Yáñez, the subcommission introduced to the Commission the draft recommendations with regard to the partial submission made by France in respect of Reunion and the Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands.

38. On the same day, the delegation of France participated in the proceedings of the Commission and made a presentation pursuant to paragraph 15.1 bis of annex III to the rules of procedure. The presentation was made by an adviser at the Secrétariat général de la mer and the head of the delegation, Gonzague Aizier; the scientific and technical manager of the French programme for the extension of the continental shelf (Extraplac), Benoît Loubrieu; and Walter Roest, an expert in geophysics.

39. In its presentation, the delegation expressed, among other things, its appreciation to the subcommission for its work. In addition to elaborating on certain scientific and technical matters relating to the submission, the delegation expressed its general agreement with the views and general conclusions of the subcommission arising from its examination of the submission.

40. The Commission then continued its deliberations in private. Owing to the limited time available, the Commission was not in a position to complete the consideration of the draft recommendations at the present session and decided to defer it to the fifty-second session.

¹¹ Submission made on 8 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_fra_40_2009.htm.

Item 11

Consideration of the submission made by Côte d'Ivoire¹²

41. On 30 July, the subcommission introduced to the Commission the draft recommendations with regard to the submission made by Côte d'Ivoire, which had been submitted to the Chair of the Commission at its forty-ninth session (CLCS/108, para. 52), through a presentation delivered by the Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane. On the same day, the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire participated in the proceedings of the Commission, making a presentation pursuant to paragraph 15.1 bis of annex III to the rules of procedure. The presentation was made by the Ombudsman of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and head of the delegation, Adama Toungara; Michel Pitron, a legal adviser; and Lindsay Parson, an expert consultant. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

42. In its presentation, the delegation expressed its appreciation to the subcommission for its work and informed the Commission that it intended to make a further submission on the western area in the future. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, the delegation expressed its concurrence with the views and general conclusions of the subcommission arising from its examination of the submission.

43. The Commission then continued its deliberations in private. Owing to the limited time available, the Commission was not in a position to complete the consideration of the draft recommendations at the present session and decided to defer it to the fifty-second session.

Item 12

Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka¹³

44. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Yáñez, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 15 to 26 July. During that period, the subcommission had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the data and information provided by the delegation during the session in response to the requests for clarification made by the subcommission during the forty-ninth session.

45. The subcommission had held three meetings with the delegation, during which several presentations were made with regard to the additional data and information provided by the delegation. Subsequently, the subcommission had transmitted its comments and requests based on its examination of the data and information submitted during the session.

46. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission.

47. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session, including through meetings with the delegation.

¹² Submission made on 8 May 2009 and amended on 24 March 2016; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_civ_42_2009.htm.

¹³ Submission made on 8 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_lka_43_2009.htm.

48. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 28 October to 8 November 2019.

Item 13

Consideration of the submission made by Portugal¹⁴

49. The Chair of the subcommission, Ms. De Landro-Clarke, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 5 to 9 August. During that period, the subcommission had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

50. The subcommission had held two meetings with the delegation, during which presentations had been exchanged by the delegation and the subcommission relating to the base and the foot of the continental slope in the submission area. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication to the delegation with its views relating to the base and the foot of the slope in the submission area and the progress of its consideration of the submission.

51. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

52. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

53. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 28 October to 8 November 2019.

Item 14

Consideration of the submission made by Tonga in respect of the eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge¹⁵

54. Following the presentations made by the subcommission and by the delegation of Tonga at the forty-ninth session (CLCS/108, paras. 64–67), the Commission resumed its consideration of the draft recommendations with regard to the partial submission made by Tonga in respect of the eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge.

55. On 2 August, following extensive deliberations, the Commission approved, without a vote, the draft recommendations with regard to the partial submission, with amendments.

56. Pursuant to article 6, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, the recommendations, including a summary thereof, were submitted in writing to the coastal State and to the Secretary-General on the same day.

¹⁴ Submission made on 11 May 2009 and amended on 1 August 2017; available at http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_prt_44_2009.htm.

¹⁵ Submission made on 11 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ton_46_2009.htm.

Item 15

Consideration of the partial amended submission made by Palau in respect of the North Area¹⁶

57. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Paterlini, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 15 to 26 July. During that period, the subcommission had conducted the initial examination of the submission pursuant to section III of annex III to the rules of procedure and commenced the main scientific and technical examination of the submission pursuant to section IV of annex III.

58. The subcommission had held one meeting with the delegation. Following a standard introductory presentation by the subcommission on the procedures and practices followed by subcommissions in the examination of submissions, the delegation had made a detailed presentation on the partial amended submission. Subsequently, the subcommission had presented to the delegation its preliminary observations relating to the materials contained in the submission and requested clarifications and additional data and information. On the basis of a preliminary analysis of the submission, the subcommission had also decided to address the question of whether the test of appurtenance was satisfied in the main scientific and technical examination of the submission. Finally, during the session, the delegation had submitted additional data and information to the subcommission in response to its requests, and the subcommission had transmitted further observations and requests for clarifications to the delegation.

59. The Chair of the subcommission also reported on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

60. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fifty-first session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

61. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 28 October to 8 November 2019.

Item 16

Consideration of other submissions made pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention

Submission made by France in respect of French Polynesia

62. The presentation of the submission of France in respect of French Polynesia was made on 2 August by an adviser at the Secrétariat général de la mer and the head of the delegation, Gonzague Aizier; the Minister of Environment and Culture of the Government of French Polynesia, Heremoana Maamaatuaiahutapu; the scientific and technical manager of the French programme for the extension of the continental shelf (Extraplac), Benoît Loubrieu; and Walter Roest, an expert in geophysics. The delegation also included two advisers of the Government of French Polynesia.

63. Mr. Aizier informed the Commission that the submission was not the subject of any disputes with any other State and that no current member of the Commission had assisted France by providing scientific and technical advice.

¹⁶ Submission made on 8 May 2009 and amended on 26 October 2017; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_plw_41_2009.htm.

64. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission, the Commission noted that no communications had been received from other States. The Commission took note of the views expressed in the presentation by the delegation. It decided that, as provided for in article 5 of annex II to the Convention and in rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the submission would be addressed by a subcommission to be established at a future session in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 4 ter, of the rules of procedure. The Commission also decided to revert to the consideration of the submission, as well as any notes verbales that might be received in the future, at the plenary level when the submission was next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it was received.

Submission made by Mauritius concerning the southern Chagos Archipelago region

65. The presentation of the submission of Mauritius concerning the southern Chagos Archipelago region was made on 14 August by the Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service and head of the delegation, Nayen Koomar Ballah; the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations, Jagdish D. Koonjul; the Solicitor General, Dheerendra Kumar Dabee; and Rezah Badal, a technical adviser. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

66. Mr. Dabee informed the Commission that no current member of the Commission had assisted Mauritius by providing scientific and technical advice with respect to the partial submission. He noted that the submission was one of several partial submissions made by Mauritius to the Commission. In that connection, he stated that Mauritius intended to make another partial submission concerning the northern Chagos Archipelago region in due course. With respect to the communication dated 28 June 2019 from the United Kingdom, he recalled the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 and the related General Assembly resolution [73/295](#) of 22 May 2019, and elaborated in detail on the views of his Government concerning the implications of the advisory opinion and the resolution for the Commission.

67. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Taking into account the views expressed and the presentation made by the delegation, the Commission decided to revert to the consideration of the submission when the submission is next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it was received.

Item 17

Report of the Chair of the Commission on the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

68. The Chair of the Commission reported on the discussions at the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention relating to the work of the Commission, including on the deliberations regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission (see [SPLOS/29/9](#), sect. VII).

69. The Commission took note of the information reported.

Item 18

Election of the officers of the Commission

70. In conformity with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the officers of the Commission are elected for a term of two and a half years and are eligible for re-election. Considering that the current term of office of the officers of the Commission would expire in December 2019 and that no plenary meetings with full conference services were scheduled for the fifty-first session, the Commission decided to proceed with the election of the officers at the present session.

71. The Commission first proceeded with the election of the Chair. During the first plenary week, the members from the Asia-Pacific States had nominated Mr. Park for re-election. During the second plenary week, Mr. Park had made a statement in which he had recalled his commitment to the rotation of the office of the Chair and expressed a view that the practice of re-electing the same member as Chair after two and a half years might deprive the Commission of the opportunity to benefit from the leadership abilities of other members. Expressing his appreciation for the nomination, he informed the Commission that, following further consultations among the members from the Asia-Pacific States, he had decided to decline the nomination and, consequently, along with those members, nominated Mr. Al-Azri as a candidate for Chair.

72. In the absence of other nominations, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Mr. Al-Azri as Chair for a term of office that will commence on 17 December 2019 and expire on 15 June 2022.

73. The Commission then proceeded with the election of Vice-Chairs, for which Messrs. Heinesen, Mazurowski, Njuguna and Yáñez were nominated. In the absence of any other nominations, the Commission elected them by acclamation as the officers of the Commission for a term of office that will commence on 17 December 2019 and expire on 15 June 2022.

74. The members of the Commission expressed gratitude to Mr. Park for his hard work, dedication and leadership in his capacity as Chair. They noted that he had made a great contribution to the work of the Commission, first as a member since its inception in 1997, and then as Chair since the forty-fourth session, in 2017. Mr. Park expressed his appreciation to the members of the Commission for their support and contributions, indicating that he was looking forward to working with them until the expiration of his term of office. He also reiterated his view that the Commission would benefit from the practice of rotating Chairs every two and a half years. In that regard, he emphasized that this approach, which was consistent with rule 13, would allow a more frequent renewal of the leadership of the Commission.

Item 19

Report of the Chair of the Committee on Confidentiality

Report of the Chair of the Committee

75. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mahanjane, reported that no meetings of the Committee had been required during the current session.

Item 20

Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee

Report of the Chair of the Committee

76. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Madon, reported that no meetings of the Committee had been required during the current session, as no request had been received from any State.

Item 21

Other matters

Establishment of subcommissions

77. In the light of the progress in its work, and in accordance with its practice, the Commission reviewed the submissions that were next in line as queued in the order in which they had been received, namely Myanmar; Yemen in respect of south-east of Socotra Island; the United Kingdom in respect of the Hatton-Rockall Area; Ireland in respect of the Hatton-Rockall Area; Fiji; Malaysia and Viet Nam, jointly, in respect of the southern part of the South China Sea; Viet Nam in respect of the North Area; and the United Kingdom in respect of the Falkland Islands and of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

78. The Commission noted that it was not in a position to proceed with the consideration of any of those submissions, as no communications had been received conveying developments that would have enabled the Commission to do so. The Commission decided that it would review the situation again at the time of the establishment of a new subcommission.

79. The Commission decided to establish subcommissions for the consideration of the two submissions next in line, namely the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia and the submission made by India.

80. With respect to the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia, the Commission appointed Messrs. Al-Azri, Glumov, Kalngui, Moreira, Mosher and Yáñez as the members of the subcommission and decided that the seventh member of the subcommission would be appointed at a subsequent stage. The subcommission elected Mr. Mosher as Chair and Messrs. Al-Azri and Yáñez as Vice-Chairs. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 11 to 29 November 2019.

81. With respect to the submission made by India, the Commission appointed Messrs. Campos, Mahanjane, Marques, Mazurowski, Njuguna, Paterlini and Tang as the members of the subcommission. In conformity with the decision taken at its twenty-sixth session (CLCS/68, paras. 35–36), and in the absence of communications conveying developments in this regard, the Commission instructed the subcommission to examine the information submitted in respect of the western offshore region of India in the Arabian Sea and not to consider the part of the submission relating to the eastern offshore region of India, comprising the eastern offshore region of mainland India in the Bay of Bengal and the western offshore region of the Andaman Islands. The subcommission elected Mr. Mahanjane as Chair and Messrs. Mazurowski and Tang as Vice-Chairs. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-first session would be held from 14 to 18 October 2019.

Corrigendum to the recommendations of the Commission in regard to the submission made by Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land

82. The Commission considered and approved editorial corrections to the recommendations of the Commission in regard to the submission made by Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land, which had been approved by the Commission, with amendments, on 8 February 2019 (CLCS/108, paras 25 to 27).

83. Pursuant to article 6, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, the corrigendum to the recommendations was transmitted to the coastal State and to the Secretary-General on the same day.

Attendance of members

84. The Commission addressed the issue of the attendance of its members and stressed that it was important for all members to attend all its meetings on time and in full, subject to absences for personal or health reasons. The Commission confirmed that it would continue the practice of addressing instances of non-attendance on a case-by-case basis, as necessary and appropriate, with a view to ensuring the full participation of all members in its work and, if warranted, of reminding nominating States of their obligations under article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention.

85. Several members raised concerns regarding changes to the established schedule of the sessions of the Commission in July and August 2019 and requested the secretariat to fix the schedule of sessions for 2020 and 2021 in order to allow members to plan their other professional activities and make early arrangements for their participation in the work of the Commission.

86. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea stated that those concerns would be brought to the attention of Member States during the informal consultations on the draft resolution on oceans and the law of the sea so that Member States could take them into account in the context of their decision on the schedule of intergovernmental meetings relating to oceans and the law of the sea, which would be reflected in the resolution.

Organization of work for the fifty-first session

87. The Commission recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 73/124, had approved the convening of the fifty-first session of the Commission from 14 October to 29 November 2019, with no plenary meetings, and the Commission agreed on the following programme of work:

1. Consideration of the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean.
2. Consideration of the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin.
3. Consideration of the joint submission made by France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands.
4. Consideration of the submission made by Kenya.
5. Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria.
6. Consideration of the partial amended submission made by Palau in respect of the North Area.
7. Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka.

8. Consideration of the submission made by Portugal.
9. Consideration of the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia.
10. Consideration of the submission made by India.
11. Other matters.

Programme of meetings for future sessions

88. The Commission decided to hold the following sessions in 2020:

(a) Fifty-second session, from 27 January to 13 March, with the plenary parts of the session to be held from 3 to 7 February and from 2 to 6 March;

(b) Fifty-third session, from 6 July to 21 August, with the plenary parts of the session to be held from 27 to 30 July and from 10 to 14 August;

(c) Fifty-fourth session, from 7 October to 24 November, with no plenary meetings.

The Commission also took note of the information provided by its secretariat in respect of the tentative schedule of sessions in 2021 and 2022.

Trust funds

89. The Commission was informed by its secretariat about the status of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of the participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in its meetings. Since the previous session, contributions had been received from Canada, China, Iceland, New Zealand and Portugal. As at 31 July 2019, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$156,000.

90. For the fiftieth session, financial assistance had been provided to six members of the Commission nominated by developing States, at an estimated total cost of \$120,000. The funding requirements for the fifty-first session, beginning in October 2019, were estimated at \$140,000. Given the anticipated balance following the disbursement of funds for the fifty-first session, the trust fund was now able to reimburse the costs of medical travel insurance for the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions as authorized by the General Assembly in paragraph 99 of its resolution [72/73](#).

91. However, the secretariat noted that, without additional contributions well in advance of the fifty-second session, there would not be sufficient funds to cover expected funding requirements for that session, scheduled to start on 27 January 2020. Consequently, the secretariat highlighted a critical need for contributions to the trust fund if it was to continue to operate in 2020 and beyond. The secretariat undertook to bring the critical need for additional contributions to the attention of States.

92. With regard to the trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the secretariat reported that, as at 31 July 2019, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$534,118. Since the previous session, no contributions to the trust fund had been received. Two applications for assistance with the preparation of a submission to the Commission, from Bangladesh and the Cook Islands, had been approved. The secretariat also informed the Commission that one additional application, from the Gambia, had been received and was being processed. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Nigeria, Palau, South Africa and Sri Lanka had received assistance from the trust fund to participate in meetings held with the

Commission or the relevant subcommissions during the present session of the Commission.

93. Acknowledging with appreciation the contributions made by States to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of the participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in its meetings, members of the Commission voiced their concerns regarding the status of the trust fund. They emphasized the negative impact of persistent uncertainties concerning the availability of funds, and the fact that the absence of several members from developing countries would hamper the work of the Commission at its fifty-second session. They also underscored the need for sustainable funding for the Commission and reiterated their appeal to States parties to find a permanent solution in this regard.
