



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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New York, 21 February–11 March 2022

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 fifty-fourth 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; Palau in respect of the North Area (partial amended submission); Sri Lanka; Portugal; Spain in respect of the area of Galicia (partial submission); and India (partial submission). The statement also contains information about the presentations of the amended submission made by Bangladesh and the joint partial submission made by Costa Rica and Ecuador concerning the Panama basin.



Introduction

1. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its fifty-fourth session at Headquarters from 21 February to 11 March 2022. The plenary part of the session was held on 28 February and on 1, 3 and 4 March.¹ The remainder of the session was devoted to the technical examination of submissions by the various subcommissions at the geographic information systems laboratories of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the 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, Antonio Fernando Garcez Faria, Mazlan bin Madon, Estevão Stefane Mahanjane, 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

3. The Commission had before it the following documents:

- (a) Provisional agenda (CLCS/54/L.1);
- (b) Statement by the Chair on the progress of work in the Commission at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions (CLCS/52/2 and CLCS/53/1);
- (c) Submissions made by coastal States³ pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including related communications;
- (d) General Assembly resolution 76/72 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 communications from Bangladesh (6 May and 13 September 2021), India (17 November 2020, 16 April 2021 and 29 November 2021), Myanmar (26 January 2021), Pakistan (6 July 2020 and 14 January 2021) and the Russian Federation (16 and 18 February 2022).

Item 1 Opening of the fifty-fourth session

4. The Chair of the Commission, Mr. Al-Azri, opened the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel congratulated Mr. Garcez on his election as a member of the Commission and paid tribute to the memory of Jair Alberto Ribas Marques, the former member of the Commission, who had passed away on 18 July 2021. Addressing the Commission

¹ The session, originally scheduled for 24 January (see General Assembly resolution 76/72, para. 114), was postponed owing to the continued impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Only limited conference services were available for the plenary part.

² Ivan F. Glumov, Emmanuel Kalngui and Martin Vang Heinesen did not attend the session. Mr. Al-Azri attended the session from 28 February; Mr. Mahanjane attended the session from 22 February; Mr. Mazurowski attended the session until 10 March; Mr. Tang attended the session from 22 February.

³ For a full list of submissions, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm.

at its first plenary meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Under-Secretary-General acknowledged the serious challenges that the Commission had experienced in conducting its work during the pandemic and commended the Commission for seeking to advance its work as much as possible despite those difficulties. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the Commission for their readiness to serve until 15 June 2023, following the extension of their terms of office at the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention. He noted that efforts of the Meeting to identify solutions to issues related to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission were continuing during the intersessional period. He reiterated the continued commitment of the Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to provide all necessary support to the Commission, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Item 2

Solemn declaration by a newly elected member of the Commission

6. Pursuant to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Commission (CLCS/40/Rev.1), Mr. Garcez made a solemn declaration and delivered a signed copy thereof to the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, as representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 3

Adoption of the agenda

7. The Commission considered the provisional agenda (CLCS/54/L.1) and adopted it with amendments (CLCS/54/1).

Item 4

Organization of work

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

Item 5

Workload of the Commission and working conditions of members

9. Owing to time constraints ensuing from the shortened duration of the plenary of the fifty-fourth session, the Commission decided to defer discussion on item 5 to the fifty-fifth session.

Item 6

Consideration of the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean⁴

10. The Commission appointed Mr. Garcez as a member of the subcommission.

⁴ Submission made on 3 August 2015; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_rus_rev1.htm.

Report of the subcommission

11. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Madon, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 21 to 25 February. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the data and information provided by the delegation of the Russian Federation in response to the requests for clarification made by the subcommission during the fifty-third session.

12. Two meetings were held with the delegation, headed by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation, Alexander Kozlov, during which the subcommission and the delegation had made presentations with regard to the additional data and information provided by the delegation. At the request of the delegation, each meeting was held in a hybrid format, in person and by videoconference, to allow for the participation of some of the members of the delegation who could not travel to United Nations Headquarters.⁵ At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted its observations and comments based on its examination of the data and information submitted prior to the session.

13. 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.

14. 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 at the fifty-fifth session, which would include meetings with the delegation with a view to presenting to the delegation 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 (CLCS/40/Rev.1). The delegation would have an opportunity to respond in accordance with paragraph 10.4 of the same annex.

15. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 5 to 15 July 2022.

Item 7**Consideration of the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin⁶**

16. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Awosika, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 7 to 11 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

17. Two meetings were held with the delegation of Brazil, during which the delegation and the subcommission had made presentations, focusing on the data and information provided by the delegation in response to the request for clarification made by the subcommission during the fifty-third session. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with its observations and some requests for further data and information.

⁵ The delegation had acknowledged the limitations concerning the confidentiality of exchanges through means other than in-person meetings, which had been brought to the attention of the delegation by the secretariat and the subcommission.

⁶ Submission made on 8 September 2017; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bra_rev2.htm.

18. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission.
19. The subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission at the fifty-fifth session.
20. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 1 to 5 August and from 15 to 19 August 2022.

Item 8

Consideration of the joint submission made by France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands⁷

21. The Commission appointed Mr. Garcez as a member of the subcommission.

Report of the subcommission

22. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Njuguna, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 7 to 11 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the data and information provided by the joint delegation in advance of the session.
23. No meetings were held with the joint delegation. The subcommission took note of the fact that the joint delegation had indicated in writing that it did not wish to avail itself of the opportunity to respond to the document, which had been provided to the joint delegation on the understanding that it replaced the presentation under paragraph 10.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure with a presentation provided for in paragraph 10.4 of that annex, if the subcommission agreed to conclude the examination of the joint submission on the basis of the information provided prior to the session. At the end of the session, the subcommission informed the joint delegation that it agreed that it could conclude the examination of the joint submission.
24. 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.
25. 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 at the fifty-fifth session, focusing on the preparation of draft recommendations.
26. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 1 to 5 and from 15 to 19 August 2022.

⁷ Submission made on 6 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_frazaf_34_2009.htm.

Item 9

Consideration of the submission made by Kenya⁸

27. The Commission appointed Mr. Garcez as a member of the subcommission.

Report of the subcommission

28. The Acting Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Awosika, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met on 28 February, and on 2 and 4 March. He stated that the subcommission had elected Mr. Madon as Vice-Chair to replace Mr. Marques. During that period, the subcommission had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing on the requirements of the statement of understanding.

29. No meetings were held with the delegation.

30. The Acting 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.

31. The subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission at the fifty-fifth session.

32. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 18 to 22 July 2022.

Item 10

Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria⁹

33. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 21 to 25 February. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

34. One meeting was held with the delegation of Nigeria, headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, during which the delegation presented data and information on the foot of the continental slope, and the delegation and the subcommission had exchanged further views. At the request of the delegation, the meeting was held in a hybrid format, in person and by videoconference, to allow for the participation of one member of the delegation who could not travel to United Nations Headquarters.¹⁰

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

36. 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 at the fifty-fifth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

⁸ Submission made on 6 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ken_35_2009.htm.

⁹ Submission made on 7 May 2009 and amended on 18 November 2016; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_nga_38_2009.htm.

¹⁰ The delegation had acknowledged the limitations concerning the confidentiality of exchanges through means other than in-person meetings, which had been brought to the attention of the delegation by the secretariat and the subcommission.

37. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 5 to 15 July 2022.

Item 11

Consideration of the partial amended submission made by Palau in respect of the North Area¹¹

38. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Paterlini, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met on 28 February, and on 2 and 4 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing on the response by the delegation to the requests for clarifications made by the subcommission during the fifty-third session.

39. No meetings were held with the delegation. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted requests for further data and information.

40. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. 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 at the fifty-fifth session.

41. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 18 to 22 July 2022.

Item 12

Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka¹²

42. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Yáñez, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met on 28 February, and on 2 and 4 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the data and information provided by the delegation of Sri Lanka in response to the requests for clarification made by the subcommission during the fifty-third session.

43. One meeting was held with the delegation, during which the delegation had made a presentation with regard to the additional data and information provided by the delegation. At the request of the delegation, the meeting was held by videoconference.¹³ At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted its observations and comments based on its examination of the data and information submitted prior to the session.

44. 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.

45. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would

¹¹ 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.

¹² Submission made on 8 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_lka_43_2009.htm.

¹³ The delegation had acknowledged the limitations concerning the confidentiality of exchanges through means other than in-person meetings, which had been brought to the attention of the delegation by the secretariat and the subcommission.

resume its consideration of the submission at the fifty-fifth session, which would include meetings with the delegation. The subcommission would consider the new data and information to be provided by the delegation of Sri Lanka during the fifty-fifth session and might then be in a position to make its presentation pursuant to paragraph 10.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure. Subsequently, the delegation would have an opportunity to respond in accordance with paragraph 10.4 of the same annex.

46. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 18 to 22 July 2022.

Item 13

Consideration of the submission made by Portugal¹⁴

47. The Chair of the subcommission, Ms. De Landro-Clarke, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 7 to 11 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

48. Three meetings were held with the delegation, during which the subcommission and the delegation had made presentations with regard to data and information submitted by the delegation, and the delegation and the subcommission had exchanged further views.

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

50. The subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission at the fifty-fifth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

51. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 1 to 5 and from 15 to 19 August 2022.

Item 14

Consideration of the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia¹⁵

52. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mosher, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 21 to 25 February and on 9 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the information received from the delegation in response to observations made by the subcommission during the fifty-third session.

53. One meeting was held with the delegation. The subcommission transmitted some observations and further requests for additional data and information. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with its observations.

54. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion,

¹⁴ Submission made on 11 May 2009 and amended on 1 August 2017; available at 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_esp_47_2009.htm.

members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

55. 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-fifth session.

56. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session would be held from 5 to 15 July 2022.

Item 15

Consideration of the submission made by India¹⁶

57. The Commission appointed Mr. Garcez as a member of the subcommission.

Report of the subcommission

58. The Commission took note of the communications from the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations dated 17 November 2020 and 29 November 2021, as well as those from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General dated 6 July 2020 and 14 January 2021. The Commission also took note of the report of the Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane. Subsequently, the Commission decided to address a letter to the delegation of India and to defer further discussion on the agenda item to the fifty-fifth session.

Item 16

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

Presentation of the amended submission made by Bangladesh¹⁷

59. The submission¹⁸ made by Bangladesh was presented on 1 March by A. K. Abdul Momen, Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of the delegation; Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Secretary and Head of Maritime Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mamunur Reza Ibne Abedin, Consultant at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Farhana Shaon, General Manager (Exploration) of the Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla); and Mosammat Shahanara Monica, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

60. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the amended submission, Mr. Alam informed the Commission that no member of the Commission had assisted Bangladesh by providing scientific and technical advice in the preparation of the amended submission.

¹⁶ Submission made on 11 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ind_48_2009.htm.

¹⁷ Submission made on 25 February 2011 and amended on 22 October 2020; available at: www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bgd_55_2011.htm.

¹⁸ Bangladesh had presented its submission on 24 August 2011 (CLCS/72, paras. 19–22). In a note verbale dated 21 December 2021, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh requested the opportunity to make a presentation to the Commission in view of the amended submission that it made on 22 October 2020, which superseded the original submission in its entirety.

61. Mr. Alam stated that the outer limits of the continental shelf in respect of the area submitted by Bangladesh in the amended submission could no longer be considered to be subject to any unresolved dispute between Bangladesh and any opposite or adjacent State. With respect to the communications by Myanmar dated 26 January 2021 and by India dated 16 April 2021, Mr. Alam indicated, inter alia, that for the outer limits of the continental shelf as contained in the amended submission, account had been taken of the binding maritime boundary delimitations established in the judgment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in *Delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh/Myanmar)* dated 14 March 2012 and the award of the Arbitral Tribunal established under annex VII of the Convention in *Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration between Bangladesh and India (Bangladesh v. India)* dated 7 July 2014. The objections should thus not prevent the examination of the amended submission.

62. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission, the Commission took note, in particular, of the communications received in relation to the amended submission, namely: the communication from Myanmar dated 26 January 2021 and the communication from India dated 16 April 2021, as well as the communications from Bangladesh dated 6 May and 13 September 2021. The Commission also took note of the fact that in its note verbale dated 16 April 2021, India invoked, inter alia, paragraph 5 (a) of annex I to the rules of procedure and requested that the Commission not consider and qualify the amended submission. The Commission also took note of the views expressed by Bangladesh during the presentation of its amended submission. In the light of these notes verbales and these views, the Commission decided to revert to the consideration of the amended submission when it was next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it had been received, taking into account any notes verbales that might be received in the future.

63. The Commission took its decision in order to take into consideration any further developments that might occur throughout the intervening period during which States may wish to make use of the avenues available to them, including provisional arrangements of a practical nature provided for in annex I to the rules of procedure.

Presentation of the joint partial submission made by Costa Rica and Ecuador concerning the Panama basin¹⁹

64. The joint partial submission made by Costa Rica and Ecuador concerning the Panama basin was presented on 1 March by Augusto Saá, Undersecretary of Sovereign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and head of the delegation of Ecuador; Adriana Bolaños, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs responsible for Bilateral Relations and International Cooperation, and head of the delegation of Costa Rica; Rodrigo Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations; Edwin Pinto, Liaison Officer and Maritime Affairs Advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador; Marino Protti, Director of the Vulcanological and Seismological Observatory of the National University of Costa Rica; and Giorgio de la Torre, Coordinator of Oceanographic Affairs at the Oceanographic Institute of the Navy of Ecuador. The delegations of Costa Rica and Ecuador also included a number of advisers.

65. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, Mr. Carazo indicated that the joint submission was a result of the long-standing cooperation between both countries in preparing the partial submission in respect of the Panama basin. He noted that Costa Rica had submitted preliminary information indicative of

¹⁹ Submission made on 16 December 2020; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_criecu_86_2020.htm.

the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles on 11 May 2009 and intended to make another partial submission in respect of the northern part of the Cocos Ridge at a later date. He also noted that Ecuador had submitted preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles on 20 September 2021 with respect to three geographical regions, namely, the southern region of the Carnegie Ridge, the northern region of the Cocos Ridge and the region of the Colón Ridge, and that Ecuador had made a second partial submission in respect of the southern region of the Carnegie Ridge on 1 March 2022.

66. Mr. Pinto indicated that the region of the Panama basin was not the subject of any insular or territorial disputes and that the joint partial submission had been made without prejudice to the question of delimitation of the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts in the Panama basin. He informed the Commission that one of its former members, Galo Carrera-Hurtado, had assisted the delegations by providing scientific and technical advice during the preparation of the joint partial submission.

67. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Taking into account the presentation made by the delegations, the Commission decided to establish a subcommission at a future session and to revert to the consideration of the joint partial submission at the plenary level when it was next in line for consideration, as queued in the order in which it had been received, taking into account any developments that might occur in the future.

68. The Commission also took note of the concerns expressed by the delegations with regard to the progress in the consideration of the submissions in the queue, and the related proposal.

Item 17

Report of the Chair of the Committee on Confidentiality

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

Item 18

Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee

70. 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 19

Other matters

Attendance of members

71. The Commission addressed the issue of the attendance of its members and re-emphasized 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. It was also recalled that the Chair of the Commission had brought the absence of members who had not attended two consecutive sessions of the Commission to the attention of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (see, for example, [SPLOS/31/6](#), paras. 18 and 19).

72. 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.

73. The Commission noted that, as a result of the continuous and extended absences of some of its members, some subcommissions had lacked the quorum required for the conduct of their business.

74. In the light of the foregoing, the Commission decided to revisit the appointments of members of subcommissions and decided that Emmanuel Kalngui would no longer serve as a member of the subcommissions established for consideration of the submissions made by Portugal,²⁰ Spain, in respect of the area of Galicia,²¹ and Sri Lanka.²² The assignment of Mr. Kalngui, a standing member of the Commission, to active subcommissions will be addressed again at any future session that he might be in a position to attend.

Capacity-building activities

75. The secretariat informed the Commission about two relevant capacity-building activities that had been undertaken by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea since the latest plenary of the Commission.

76. From 19 to 27 April 2021, a virtual training workshop had been delivered at the request of the Federal Government of Somalia to provide an in-depth understanding of the procedure for determining the outer limits of a State's continental shelf and the scientific and technical data required for a submission to the Commission. Twenty participants, including maritime authorities and university students, had taken part in the training.

77. From 10 July to 6 August 2021, a virtual course had been implemented in collaboration with the Pacific maritime boundaries consortium and the Pacific Community to provide training on the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and on the preparation of a submission to the Commission. The training course was part of a four-year capacity-building project implemented by the Division with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation that was aimed at building sustainable "blue" economies in accordance with the Convention and to strengthen ocean governance. Additional regional courses under the project were expected to be held in the coming years.

Trust funds

78. The secretariat informed the Commission 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 fifty-second session, contributions had been received from Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malta, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and the European Union. As at 28 February 2022, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$1,065,443.

79. The secretariat noted that, for the current session, financial assistance had been provided to six members of the Commission nominated by developing States, at an

²⁰ See CLCS/100, para. 10 (j).

²¹ See CLCS/50/2, para. 80.

²² See CLCS/100, para. 10 (i).

estimated total cost of \$71,000, recalling that the session had been held for only three weeks owing to the postponement of the start of the session due to the surge of infections caused by the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Barring any further COVID-19-related circumstances, the funding requirements for the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions in 2022 had been estimated at \$120,000 each. In view of the above, and following the allocation of the required funds to cover the costs of travel and the daily subsistence allowance for the members of the Commission from developing States for its sessions in 2022, the balance of the trust fund was currently sufficient to reimburse the full costs of the premiums paid by the members of the Commission from developing States who joined the Headquarters medical insurance scheme or the costs of medical travel insurance.

80. With regard to the trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the Convention, the secretariat reported that, as at 28 February 2022, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$488,500. Since the fifty-second session, a contribution had been received from the European Union. Three States had received assistance from the trust fund to participate in meetings held with the Commission during its current session.