



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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New York, 5 July–19 August 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-fifth 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; Mauritius in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island; 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 presentation of submissions made by Malaysia concerning the South China Sea; Chile in respect of the eastern continental shelf of Easter Island Province; Indonesia concerning the area south-west of Sumatera; Chile in respect of the western continental shelf of the Chilean Antarctic Territory; and Ecuador concerning the southern region of the Carnegie Ridge. In addition, it provides information on other issues covered by the Commission during the session, such as discussions on the outcomes of the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relevant to the Commission.



I. Introduction

1. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its fifty-fifth session at Headquarters from 5 July to 19 August 2022. The plenary part of the session was held from 25 to 29 July and from 8 to 12 August.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, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations 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, Ivan F. Glumov, Martin Vang Heinesen, Mazlan bin Madon, Estevão Stefane Mahanjane, Marcin Mazurowski, 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/55/L.1](#));
- (b) Statements by the Chair on the progress of work in the Commission at its fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions ([CLCS/53/1](#) and [CLCS/54/2](#));
- (c) Submissions made by coastal States³ pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention, including related communications;
- (d) General Assembly resolution [76/72](#) on oceans and the law of the sea;
- (e) Report of the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([SPLOS/32/15](#));
- (f) Relevant communications from States parties to the Convention and States Members of the United Nations.

Item 1

Opening of the fifty-fifth session

4. The Acting Chair, Mr. Njuguna, opened the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.⁴

Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

5. The Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs made a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel. He noted the continued support by States for the work of the Commission, including as expressed at the meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention and at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention. Noting the continued concerns regarding the

¹ See General Assembly resolution [76/72](#), para. 114.

² Emmanuel Kalngui and Domingos de Carvalho Viana Moreira did not attend the session. Mr. Al-Azri attended the session from 5 to 22 July and from 4 to 19 August; Mr. Campos attended from 18 July; Ms. De Landro-Clarke attended from 11 July; Mr. Glumov attended from 11 to 26 July; Mr. Mazurowski attended from 18 to 29 July and from 5 to 19 August; Mr. Paterlini attended from 11 July; and Mr. Tang attended from 7 July.

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

⁴ Mr. Njuguna was designated as Acting Chair and presided over the session from 25 July to 4 August.

conditions of service of the members of the Commission, he recalled that the secretariat was in full support of the efforts by States parties in seeking to find efficient and sustainable solutions to those concerns. Regarding the election of members of the Commission held at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties, the Assistant Secretary-General congratulated the present members of the Commission who were re-elected and expressed gratitude to those members who did not run for re-election or were not re-elected, for their invaluable contributions to its work. He also noted with regret that only one woman was nominated and elected to the Commission. The Assistant Secretary-General affirmed that the secretariat would continue to encourage the nomination of female experts towards achieving gender balance in the Commission. He reiterated 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/55/L.1](#)) and adopted it with amendments ([CLCS/55/1](#)).

Item 3

Organization of work

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

Item 4

Workload of the Commission and working conditions of members

8. The Chair of the Commission stated that the conditions of service of the members of the Commission remained a matter of significant concern and that the Commission continued to advocate before the Meeting of States Parties that all its members should receive similar and reasonable treatment related to their duties, including reasonable travel conditions and accommodation and full insurance coverage, with the United Nations standards serving as a minimum.

9. He informed the Commission that discussions had continued at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties, in June 2022, on the possible mechanisms to ensure that 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 would have sufficiently funds to reimburse the costs associated with the minimum conditions of service of seven members of the Commission from developing States. The discussions included consideration of a proposal by the Co-Coordination of the open-ended working group under which nominating States that were developed States and other nominating States that were in a position to do so would act as guarantors of the voluntary trust fund. These discussions were planned to be continued intersessionally.

10. The Commission took note of these developments and decided to continue to monitor the work of the open-ended working group.

Item 5**Consideration of the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean⁵**

11. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Madon, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 5 to 15 July. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

12. One meeting was held with the delegation, headed by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation, Alexander Kozlov, during which, pursuant to paragraph 10.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure (CLCS/40/Rev.1), the subcommission gave a comprehensive presentation on its views and general conclusions arising from the examination of the submission. Following an exchange of communications, the delegation provided in writing its response pursuant to paragraph 10.4 of annex III to the rules of procedure, expressing agreement with the views and general conclusions contained in the presentation made by the subcommission pursuant to paragraph 10.3 as well as in the above-mentioned exchange of communications. Subsequently, the subcommission commenced the drafting of the recommendations, pursuant to paragraph 10.5 of annex III to the rules of procedure.

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-sixth session with a view to adopting the draft recommendations, pursuant to paragraph 13 of annex III to the rules of procedure, and submitting them in writing to the Chair of the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 14 of the same annex. At the end of the session, the subcommission reconfirmed this plan of work in response to a communication by the delegation.

15. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 5 to 21 October 2022.

Item 6**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 1 to 5 and from 15 to 19 August. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

17. Five meetings were held with the delegation, during which the delegation and the subcommission made presentations, focusing on the data and information provided by the delegation in response to the observations and requests for additional information made by the subcommission during the fifty-fourth session.

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

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. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

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

20. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 10 to 22 November 2022.

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 Islands⁷

21. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Njuguna, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 1 to 5 and from 15 to 19 August. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing on the drafting of recommendations, pursuant to paragraph 10.5 of annex III to the rules of procedure.

22. No meetings were held with the joint delegation.

23. 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-sixth session with a view to adopting draft recommendations, pursuant to paragraph 13 of annex III to the rules of procedure, and submitting them in writing to the Chair of the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 14 of the same annex.

24. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 10 to 22 November 2022.

Item 8

Consideration of the submission made by Kenya⁸

25. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Heinesen, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 18 to 22 July. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

26. No meetings were held with the delegation. The subcommission transmitted a communication to the delegation with an update of the summary of its consideration of the submission, including requests for additional data and information.

27. 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.

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

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

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

29. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 24 October to 9 November 2022.

Item 9

Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria⁹

30. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 5 to 15 July. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

31. Two meetings were held with the delegation, during which the subcommission and the delegation made presentations with regard to the additional data and information provided by the delegation at the fifty-fourth session. During the second meeting, the delegation was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, and was also attended by the Chief of Staff to the President of Nigeria, Ibrahim A. Gambari, as well as the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, Tijjani Muhammad Bande. The delegation subsequently transmitted additional information on the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin and the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Nigeria.

32. 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.

33. 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-sixth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

34. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 5 to 21 October 2022.

Item 10

Consideration of the partial amended submission made by Palau in respect of the North Area¹⁰

35. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Paterlini, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 18 to 22 July. 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 and fifty-fourth sessions.

36. No meetings were held with the delegation.

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

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 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.

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

38. 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-sixth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

39. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 24 October to 9 November 2022.

Item 11

Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka¹¹

40. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Yáñez, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 18 to 22 July. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

41. The scheduled meetings with the delegation could not take place for reasons beyond the delegation's control.

42. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

43. 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-sixth 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 in response to the request sent at the end of the fifty-fourth session. It 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.

44. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 25 October to 9 November 2022.

Item 12

Consideration of the submission made by Portugal¹²

45. The Chair of the subcommission, Ms. De Landro-Clarke, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 1 to 5 August and from 15 to 19 August. During that period, the subcommission had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

46. Three meetings were held with the delegation, during which the subcommission and the delegation made presentations and exchanged views with regard to data and information submitted by the delegation prior to and during the session. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with its observations and requests for further clarification.

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

¹¹ Submission made on 8 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_lka_43_2009.htm.

¹² 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.

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

48. 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-sixth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

49. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 10 to 22 November 2022.

Item 13

Consideration of the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia¹³

50. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mosher, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 5 to 15 July 2022. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing in particular on the information and clarifications received from the delegation in response to observations made by the subcommission during the fifty-fourth session.

51. No meetings were held with the delegation. The subcommission transmitted a communication with its observations and further requests for additional data and information.

52. 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.

53. 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-sixth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

54. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-sixth session would be held from 5 to 21 October 2022.

Item 14

Consideration of the submission made by India¹⁴

55. The Commission resumed deliberations concerning 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 decided to send a letter to the delegation of India and to defer further discussion on the agenda item to the fifty-seventh session.¹⁵

¹³ Submission made on 11 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_esp_47_2009.htm.

¹⁴ Submission made on 11 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ind_48_2009.htm.

¹⁵ See CLCS/54/2, para. 58.

Item 15

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

Presentation of the partial submission made by Malaysia in respect of the South China Sea¹⁶

56. The submission made by Malaysia was presented on 27 July by Rodzi Md Saad, Director General, National Security Council, and head of the delegation; Adina Kamarudin, Director General, Department of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alfian Yang Amri, Deputy Head of Division I, International Affairs Division, Attorney General's Chambers; Mohammad Zaki Mohd Ghazali, Director General, Department of Survey and Mapping; and Noran Alwakhir Shaarani, Senior Geologist, Department of Mineral and Geoscience. The delegation also included Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, as well as a number of advisers.

57. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the partial submission, the delegation informed the Commission that one of its current members, Mr. Madon, had assisted the delegation by providing scientific and technical advice during the preparation of the partial submission. It also noted that Malaysia and Viet Nam had made a joint submission to the Commission in respect of the southern part of the South China Sea on 6 May 2009.

58. The delegation stated in its presentation, as indicated in the executive summary of its submission, that there were areas of potential overlapping entitlements in respect of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the area that was the subject of the partial submission and that Malaysia was undertaking efforts to engage with the relevant States. It noted that the partial submission was made without prejudice to the delimitation of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles between States with opposite or adjacent coasts and to the position of States that were parties to a land or maritime dispute.

59. With respect to communications that had been received in connection with the partial submission, the delegation stated that Malaysia rejected China's claim to historic rights or other sovereign rights or jurisdiction with respect to the maritime areas of the South China Sea. The delegation also indicated that it considered that the Philippines' assertion that the area overlapped with its future submission was premature in nature and further stated that Malaysia had never recognized the Philippines' claim to the Malaysian State of Sabah (formerly known as North Borneo). The delegation also referred in this regard to the separate opinion appended by Judge ad hoc Franck to the Judgment of the International Court of Justice, dated 23 October 2001, in the case concerning *Sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan (Indonesia/Malaysia): Application by the Philippines for Permission to Intervene*, and stated that modern international law did not recognize the survival of a right of sovereignty based solely on historic title. The delegation therefore indicated that paragraph 5 (a) of annex I to the rules of procedure should not be invoked in connection with the partial submission.

60. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission, the Commission took note of the communications addressed to the Secretary-General in relation to the partial submission, namely the communications from China (12 December 2019, 23 March 2020, 17 April 2020, 2 June 2020, 9 June 2020 (A/74/886), 18 June 2020, 29 July

¹⁶ Submission made on 12 December 2019; available at: www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_mys_12_12_2019.html.

2020, 7 August 2020, 18 September 2020, 28 January 2021, 16 August 2021 and 25 July 2022); the Philippines (6 March 2020 and 9 October 2020); Viet Nam (30 March 2020 and 10 April 2020 (two communications)); from Indonesia (26 May 2020 and 12 June 2020); the United States of America (1 June 2020); Australia (23 July 2020); Malaysia (29 July 2020 and 27 August 2020); the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (16 September 2020); France (16 September 2020); Germany (16 September 2020); Japan (19 January 2021); and New Zealand (3 August 2021).

61. The Commission observed that the communications from China dated 12 December 2019, 23 March 2020, 7 August 2020 and 25 July 2022 and from the Philippines dated 6 March 2020 and 9 October 2020, *inter alia*, invoked paragraph 5 (a) of annex I to the rules of procedure and annex I to the rules of procedure, respectively, with reference to disputes in the area of the partial submission. The Commission also took note of the views expressed in the presentation by Malaysia of its partial submission in connection with these communications.

62. Taking into account these communications and the presentation made by the delegation, as well as the views expressed by Malaysia in its communications, the Commission decided to defer further consideration of the partial submission and the communications until such time as the partial submission was next in line for consideration, as queued in the order in which it had been received. The Commission took this decision in order to take into consideration any further developments that might occur throughout the intervening period during which States may wish to take advantage of the avenues available to them, including provisional arrangements of a practical nature as set out in annex I to its rules of procedure.

Presentation of the partial submission made by Chile in respect of the eastern continental shelf of Easter Island Province¹⁷

63. The partial submission made by Chile in respect of the eastern continental shelf of Easter Island Province was presented on 10 August by Ximena Fuentes Torrijo, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile and head of the delegation, and Carla Hervías, Technical Coordinator of the Chilean Continental Shelf Project, following an opening statement by Paula Narváez Ojeda, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

64. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the partial submission, the delegation informed the Commission that one of its current members, Mr. Yáñez, had assisted Chile by providing scientific and technical advice during the preparation of the partial submission.

65. In respect of information regarding any disputes related to the partial submission, the delegation stated in its presentation, as indicated in the executive summary of its submission, that the entitlement of Chile to the eastern continental shelf of Easter Island Province did not overlap with entitlements of any third State.

66. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the partial submission, the Commission noted that no communications had been received from other States. Taking into account the presentation made by the delegation, the Commission decided to establish a subcommission at a future session and to revert to the consideration of the partial submission at the plenary level when it was next in line for consideration, as queued

¹⁷ Submission made on 21 December 2020; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_chl_87_2020.htm.

in the order in which it had been received, taking into account any developments that might occur in the future.

Presentation of the partial submission made by Indonesia in respect of the area south-west of Sumatera¹⁸

67. The submission made by Indonesia was presented on 11 August by Mohammad Arief Syafii, Deputy for Basic Geospatial Information, Geospatial Information Agency and head of the delegation; Sora Lokita, Director for Delimitation of the Maritime Zone and Border Area, Ministry of Maritime and Investment Affairs; Dyan Primana, Commodore, Survey and Mapping Operations Assistant to Commander of the Indonesian Navy Hydro-Oceanographic Center; Yosef Dwi Sigit Purnomo, Head, Center for Mapping of the Ocean and Coastal Environment, Geospatial Information Agency; Astrit Rimayanti, Head, Center for Mapping of the Border, Geospatial Information Agency; and Andreano Erwin, Director, Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation also included Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, as well as a number of advisers.

68. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the partial submission, the delegation noted that the submission was the third partial submission made by Indonesia to the Commission. The delegation stated that no disputes existed in respect of the area covered in the partial submission. It further noted that Indonesia had just made its fourth partial submission in respect of the area of south of Java and south of Nusa Tenggara on 11 August 2022.

69. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the partial submission, the Commission noted that no communications had been received from other States. Taking into account the presentation made by the delegation, the Commission decided to establish a subcommission at a future session and to revert to the consideration of the 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.

Presentation of the partial submission made by Chile in respect of the western continental shelf of the Chilean Antarctic Territory¹⁹

70. The partial submission made by Chile in respect of the western continental shelf of the Chilean Antarctic Territory was presented on 10 August by Ximena Fuentes Torrijo, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile and head of the delegation, and Alejandro Silva, Bathymetry Analyst of the Chilean Continental Shelf Project. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

71. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the partial submission, the delegation informed the Commission that one of its current members, Mr. Yáñez, had assisted Chile by providing scientific and technical advice during the preparation of the partial submission.

72. The delegation recalled, as stated in its note verbale dated 28 February 2022 addressed to the Secretary-General, that Chile was an original signatory of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, which entered into force on 23 June 1961, and that in 2004 the seven States that assert rights of or claims to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica (Argentina,

¹⁸ Submission made on 28 December 2020; available at: www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_idn2_88_2020.htm.

¹⁹ Submission made on 28 February 2022; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_chl_89_2022.htm.

Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom) had agreed that, while it was open to them to submit information to the Commission with regard to the outer limits of the continental shelf appurtenant to Antarctica, they would request the Commission not to take action for the time being with regard to the information contained in the respective submissions. The delegation also confirmed that Chile reserved its right to submit information in the future regarding the outer limits of the continental shelf of the eastern Chilean Antarctic Territory.

73. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the partial submission, the Commission took note of the note verbale from Chile dated 28 February 2022 addressed to the Secretary-General, in which Chile had requested the Commission not to take any action for the time being with regard to the information in this submission. The Commission also took note of the note verbale from the United Kingdom dated 22 April 2022 addressed to the Secretary-General. In view of these communications, the Commission decided not to consider and qualify the partial submission.

Presentation of the partial submission made by Ecuador concerning the southern region of the Carnegie Ridge²⁰

74. The partial submission made by Ecuador concerning the southern region of the Carnegie Ridge was presented on 11 August by Augusto Saá, Undersecretary of Sovereignty and Border Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and head of the delegation; Elizabeth Moreano, Director of Sovereignty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; Edwin Pinto, Liaison Officer and Maritime Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; and José Córdova, Head of the Unit of Nautical Management. The delegation also included Cristian Espinosa Cañizares, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, and a number of advisers.

75. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the partial submission, the delegation recalled that Ecuador and Costa Rica had made a joint submission to the Commission concerning the Panama Basin on 16 December 2020. The delegation further 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 Colón Ridge region, and that Ecuador was preparing two partial submissions in respect of the latter two regions.

76. The delegation stated in its presentation, as indicated in the executive summary of its submission, that the southern region of the Carnegie Ridge was not the subject of any maritime, insular or territorial disputes and that maritime spaces under national jurisdiction had been delimited up to a distance of 200 nautical miles between Ecuador and Peru. It further stated that the 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 southern region of the Carnegie Ridge.

77. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the partial submission, the Commission noted that no communications had been received from other States. Taking into account the presentation made by the delegation, the Commission decided to establish a subcommission at a future session and to revert to the consideration of the submission at the plenary level when it was next in line for consideration, as queued in the order

²⁰ Submission made on 1 March 2022: available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ecu_90_2022.htm.

in which it had been received, taking into account any developments that might occur in the future.

78. The Commission also took note of the concerns expressed by the delegation with regard to progress in the consideration of the submissions in the queue and a related proposal.

Item 16

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

79. The Chair of the Commission reported on the discussions at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties relating to the work of the Commission, including on the deliberations regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission (see [SPLOS/32/15](#), sect. VI.B).

80. The Commission took note of the information reported.²¹

Item 17

Report of the Chair of the Committee on Confidentiality

81. 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

82. 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

Submission made by Mauritius in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island

83. The Commission reverted to the submission made by Mauritius in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island, recalling that at the forty-fourth session, having taken note of the request contained in two communications from Mauritius, dated 25 May 2016 and 30 January 2017, and of the information that the Government of Mauritius was obtaining further data in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island, the Commission had decided that it would suspend its consideration of the partial submission until further notice. At that time the Commission had decided that, following the receipt of the new data and information, it would determine the modalities for the consideration of the submission, taking into consideration the organization of its work at the time.

84. The Commission also recalled that on 3 March 2020 Mauritius transmitted an amendment to its submission in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island, which,

²¹ See also paras. 87–89 below.

according to the coastal State, replaced the data and information previously submitted for that region in their entirety.

85. The Commission subsequently discussed the modalities for resuming consideration of the partial submission. Following consultations and taking into account the partial change in membership of the subcommission as well as the overall organization of the work of the Commission, the Commission decided that the subcommission would resume its work at the fifty-sixth session on 24 October 2022 with the following composition: Mr. Campos, Ms. De Landro-Clarke, Mr. Glumov, Mr. Moreira, Ms. Raharimananirina, Mr. Yamazaki and Mr. Yáñez.

86. The subcommission met and elected Mr. Campos as Chair and Mr. Yamazaki and Mr. Yáñez as Vice-Chairs. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a letter inviting the delegation to meet at the fifty-sixth session.

Working methods of the Commission

87. The Commission discussed various aspects of its working methods with a view to enhancing their efficiency, also in response to views expressed during the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/32/15, para. 53) (see also para. 80 above).

88. The Commission established an open-ended working group, with Mr. Garcez, Mr. Mosher (Chair), Mr. Yamazaki and Mr. Yáñez as core members. It was decided that that working group would identify the needs of the Commission for upgrades to existing technical facilities. The working group reported to the Commission on the outcome of its discussions seeking feedback from other members and noting that it would continue its work during the fifty-sixth session.

89. The Commission also established an open-ended working group with a view to keeping the working methods of the Commission under review. It was decided that the working group would consider suggestions submitted by members of the Commission and formulate proposals in writing for consideration by the plenary, as appropriate. Subsequently, the working group met and elected Mr. Mosher as Chair and Mr. Garcez as Vice-Chair.

Induction of newly elected members of the Commission

90. In view of the election of members of the Commission in June 2022, and for the benefit, in particular, of the newly elected members, whose terms of office will commence on 16 June 2023, the Commission established an open-ended working group composed of Mr. Awosika, Mr. Garcez (Chair), Mr. Heinesen, Mr. Paterlini and Mr. Yamazaki, as core members, to consider how best to facilitate the induction of new members and to formulate proposals. The working group met and reported to the Commission on the outcome of its discussions with a proposed action plan, noting that it would continue its work during the fifty-sixth session.

Geographic information management software used for submissions

91. The Commission reemphasized that submitting States should ensure that the version of the geographic information system software used in their submissions is compatible with the version used by the Commission.

Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission

92. It was recalled that the first session of the Commission was held from 16 to 20 June 1997 and therefore the year 2022 marked its twenty-fifth anniversary. While noting that the workload before the Commission prior to the completion of its current term of office did not leave room for convening an open meeting or other event to

commemorate the anniversary, members of the Commission agreed that the contribution of the members that had been serving since the establishment of the Commission, namely, Mr. Awosika and Mr. Park, deserved special recognition.

Organization of work for the fifty-sixth session

93. The Commission recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution [76/72](#), had approved the convening of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission from 5 October to 22 November 2022, with no plenary meetings. 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 partial submission made by Mauritius in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island.
6. Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria.
7. Consideration of the partial amended submission made by Palau in respect of the North Area.
8. Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka.
9. Consideration of the submission made by Portugal.
10. Consideration of the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia.
11. Consideration of the submission made by India.

Programme of meetings for future sessions

94. The Commission decided to hold its fifty-seventh session from 23 January to 10 March 2023, with the plenary parts of the session to be held from 30 January to 3 February and from 20 February to 3 March, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

95. The Commission decided to schedule the fifty-eighth session from 5 July to 22 August 2023 and requested the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to identify the dates for the plenary part, which are subject to approval by the General Assembly, in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Commission also decided to schedule the fifty-ninth session from 4 October to 21 November 2023, with no plenary meetings.

Trust funds

96. 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-fourth session, contributions had been received from Costa Rica, Ireland, Japan, the Philippines, Portugal and the Republic of Korea. As at 30 June 2022, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$1,161,500.

97. 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 estimated total cost of \$132,000. It was highlighted that the current status of the trust fund balance was due to the inability of the Commission to meet for an extensive period of time due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). However, further contributions to the trust fund would be needed to sustain its continued operation.

98. The secretariat noted that the balance of the trust fund was currently sufficient either 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. It was noted that none of the members had availed themselves of the medical insurance scheme offered at Headquarters. In this regard, some members of the Commission pointed out that the high upfront cost of the health insurance expected to be covered by members before reimbursement rendered the health insurance scheme at Headquarters unviable for those eligible members.

99. 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 30 June 2022, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$468,000 and that no contributions had been received since the previous session. Indonesia and Nigeria had received assistance from the trust fund to participate in meetings held with the Commission or the relevant subcommissions during the current session of the Commission.
