



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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New York, 5 October–22 November 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-sixth session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Ten submissions were on the plan of work of the Commission for this session, namely, those 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; and Spain, in respect of the area of Galicia (partial submission).



I. Introduction

1. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its fifty-sixth session at Headquarters from 5 October to 22 November 2022. The session was devoted to the scientific and 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: 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, 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.¹

3. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Statement by the Chair on the progress of work in the Commission at its fifty-fifth session (CLCS/55/2);

(b) Submissions made by coastal States² pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including related communications.

II. Consideration of the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean³

4. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Madon, met from 5 to 21 October. During that period, in accordance with paragraph 10.5 of annex III to the rules of procedure, it proceeded with the preparation of its recommendations, which it adopted and transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on 21 October, in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 5, of the rules of procedure.

5. The subcommission decided that it would resume its work during the fifty-seventh session.

6. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 13 to 17 February 2023. Depending on the exigencies of the session, some of that time may be dedicated to the consideration of recommendations for other submissions.

¹ Adnan Rashid Nasser al-Azri, and Emmanuel Kalngui did not attend the session. Mr. Glumov attended the session from 7 November; Mr. Mazurowski attended the session from 24 October; Mr. Moreira attended the session until 11 November; Messrs. Mosher, Park and Yáñez attended the session from 10 October; Mr. Njuguna attended the session from 6 October; Mr. Park attended the session from 10 October; Mr. Tang attended the session from 26 October.

² For a full list of submissions, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm.

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

III. Consideration of the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin⁴

7. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Awosika, met from 10 to 22 November. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

8. Three meetings were held with the delegation, during which the delegation and the subcommission made presentations focusing on the data and information received from the delegation in response to observations and requests for further information and clarifications made by the subcommission at the fifty-fifth session and during the present session.

9. The subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission at the fifty-seventh session, focusing on the preparation of a “handover” document to ensure the continuity of work of the subcommission in view of the forthcoming change in membership of the Commission in June 2023.

10. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 27 February to 3 March 2023.

IV. Consideration of the joint submission made by France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands⁵

11. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Njuguna, met from 10 to 22 November. During that period, in accordance with paragraph 10.5 of annex III to the rules of procedure, it proceeded with the preparation of its recommendations, which it adopted and transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on 17 November, in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 5, of the rules of procedure.

12. The subcommission decided that it would resume its work during the fifty-seventh session.

13. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 27 February to 3 March 2023. Depending on the exigencies of the session, some of that time may be dedicated to the consideration of recommendations for other submissions.

V. Consideration of the submission made by Kenya⁶

14. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Heinesen, met from 24 October to 9 November. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

15. The subcommission held two meetings with the delegation, during which it made an updated 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. Subsequently, the delegation

⁴ Submission made on 8 September 2017; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bra_rev2.htm.

⁵ Submission made on 6 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_frazaf_34_2009.htm.

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

made a presentation to the subcommission, pursuant to paragraph 10.4 of annex III to the rules of procedure.

16. The subcommission then proceeded with the preparation of its recommendations, in accordance with paragraph 10.5 of annex III to the rules of procedure, which it adopted on 8 November and transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on 9 November, in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 5, of the rules of procedure.

17. The subcommission decided that it would resume its work during the fifty-seventh session.

18. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 23 to 27 January and from 20 to 24 February 2023. Depending on the exigencies of the session, some of that time may be dedicated to the consideration of recommendations for other submissions.

VI. Consideration of the submission made by Mauritius in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island⁷

19. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Campos, met from 7 to 9 November. During that period, it resumed its consideration of the submission, which had been suspended at the forty-fourth session at the request of the delegation. The new members of the subcommission acquainted themselves with the details of the submission.⁸

20. One meeting was held with the delegation, during which it presented the amendment to the submission.

21. 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-seventh session.

22. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held on 24 February 2023.

VII. Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria⁹

23. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Mahanjane, met from 5 to 21 October. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, considering in particular the data and information provided by the delegation in response to requests made by the subcommission at the fifty-fifth session and during the present session.

24. Two meetings were held with the delegation of Nigeria, headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, during which the subcommission made a comprehensive presentation 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, and the delegation gave its response to the presentation of the subcommission, pursuant to paragraph 10.4 of annex III to the rules of procedure.

⁷ Submission made on 6 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_mus_36_2009.htm.

⁸ CLCS/55/2, paras. 83–86.

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.

25. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with further requests for additional data and information and its plans for conclusion of its consideration of the submission.

26. 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-seventh session, focusing on the preparation of draft recommendations, in accordance with paragraph 10.5 of annex III to the rules of procedure.

27. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 13 to 17 February 2023. Depending on the exigencies of the session, some of that time may be dedicated to the consideration of recommendations for other submissions.

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

28. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Paterlini, met from 24 October to 9 November. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing on the material submitted by the delegation in response to the requests made by the subcommission at the fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions.

29. The subcommission held two meetings with the delegation, during which the subcommission and the delegation gave presentations. The subcommission provided additional information in response to a request for clarification by the delegation, and the delegation transmitted additional data and information during the session.

30. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with further observations and requests for additional clarification.

31. 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-seventh session.

32. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 23 to 27 January and from 20 to 24 February 2023. Depending on the exigencies of the session, some of that time may be dedicated to the consideration of recommendations for other submissions.

IX. Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka¹¹

33. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Yáñez, met from 24 October to 4 November. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, considering in particular the responses provided by the delegation to requests and communications transmitted by the subcommission at the fifty-fourth session and during the present session.

34. Three meetings were held with the delegation, during which the subcommission and the delegation made presentations with regard to the responses provided by the delegation. At the request of the delegation, the meetings were held by

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.

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

videoconference.¹² During the session, the delegation and the subcommission exchanged communications and documents.

35. 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-seventh session.

36. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 23 to 27 January and from 20 to 23 February 2023. Depending on the exigencies of the session, some of that time may be dedicated to the consideration of recommendations for other submissions.

X. Consideration of the submission made by Portugal¹³

37. The subcommission, chaired by Ms. De Landro-Clarke, met from 10 to 22 November. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

38. Three meetings were held with the delegation, during which the subcommission and the delegation made presentations with regard to data and information submitted by the delegation and the reply by the delegation to the requests for clarification made by the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session. The delegation and the subcommission also exchanged further views.

39. At the end of the session, the subcommission transmitted a communication with its observations regarding the submission.

40. 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-seventh session, focusing on the preparation of a “handover” document to ensure the continuity of work of the subcommission in view of the forthcoming change in membership of the Commission in June 2023.

41. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 27 February to 3 March 2023.

XI. Consideration of the partial submission made by Spain in respect of the area of Galicia¹⁴

42. The subcommission, chaired by Mr. Mosher, met from 7 to 21 October. During that period, it continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, focusing on the data and information received from the delegation in response to observations and requests for further information and clarifications made by the subcommission during the fifty-fifth session.

¹² The delegation had acknowledged the limitations concerning the confidentiality of exchanges by means other than in-person meetings, which had been brought to the attention of the delegation by the secretariat and the subcommission.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Submission made on 11 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_esp_47_2009.htm.

43. The subcommission held two meetings with the delegation, during which they exchanged views. The delegation provided additional data and information. In addition to its presentation, the subcommission transmitted to the delegation a summary of observations and requests for additional data and information.

44. 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-seventh session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

45. The meetings of the subcommission during the fifty-seventh session will be held from 13 to 17 February 2023.

XII. Other matters

Trust funds

46. The secretariat informed the members of the Commission about the status of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in its meetings. Since the fifty-fifth session, contributions had been received from France and the Philippines. As at 31 October 2022, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$920,000. For the present session, financial assistance for a total of approximately \$180,000, inclusive of programme support costs, had been provided to six members.

Induction of newly elected members of the Commission

47. The working group established at the fifty-fifth session¹⁵ resumed its work with a view to compiling, updating and finalizing a number of presentations to help newly elected members to familiarize themselves with relevant procedural, scientific and technical, administrative and logistical aspects of the work of the Commission. The working group will continue its work during the fifty-seventh session.

¹⁵ [CLCS/55/2](#), para. 90.