



Meeting of States Parties

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Report of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties

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I. Introduction

1. The twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was held at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 19 June 2019, in accordance with article 319, paragraph 2 (e), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ and paragraph 55 of General Assembly resolution [73/124](#) of 11 December 2018.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of States parties to the Convention and observers, including from the International Seabed Authority, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.²

II. Organization of work

A. Opening of the Meeting and election of officers

3. The President of the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties, Sven Jürgenson (Estonia), opened the twenty-ninth Meeting.
4. The Meeting observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.
5. The Meeting elected Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone) as President of the twenty-ninth Meeting, by acclamation.
6. The Meeting elected Anneli Leega Piiskop (Estonia), Sidney Gregory Kemble (Netherlands), Luke Tang (Singapore) and Carlos Mata (Uruguay) as Vice-Presidents, by acclamation.
7. The Secretary-General made opening remarks focused on the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention³ (see paragraphs 13 to 15).

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The Meeting adopted the agenda ([SPLOS/29/1](#)) and approved the organization of work on the understanding that it could be adjusted as necessary to ensure the efficient conduct of the Meeting.

III. Credentials Committee

A. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

9. On 17 June 2019, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of the following States parties:

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

² See rules 5, 18, 37 and 38 of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.4](#)) and the list of delegations ([SPLOS/29/INF/1](#)).

³ The statement of the Secretary-General, statements submitted by delegations and speakers for circulation, as well as relevant documents and information provided by the Secretariat are available at <https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/convention-treaty/los/sp-unclos/29th-meeting/programme>.

Cyprus, Eswatini, Gabon, Iceland, Jamaica, Portugal, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.⁴

10. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 18 June 2019. It elected Christine Bailey (Jamaica) as Chair and Doros Venezis (Cyprus) as Vice-Chair, by acclamation.

B. Report of the Credentials Committee

11. The Chair of the Credentials Committee introduced the report of the Committee on 19 June 2019 (SPLOS/29/7). She stated that the Committee had examined and accepted the credentials of representatives of 126 States parties to the twenty-ninth Meeting, of which 73 were formal credentials. Provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives of States participating in the twenty-ninth Meeting had been received from 53 States parties on the understanding that formal credentials would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

12. The Meeting approved the report of the Credentials Committee on the understanding that the credentials would continue to be valid, in accordance with rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure, until the convening of the thirtieth Meeting (SPLOS/263, para. 101).

IV. Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention

13. In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General underscored the comprehensive nature of the legal framework set out in the Convention for the peaceful, cooperative and sustainable use of the oceans, as well as for the progressive development of international law. He cited as a recent example the decision of the General Assembly to develop an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. He also noted the role of the bodies established under the Convention in furthering multilateral cooperation.

14. The Secretary-General drew attention to the unprecedented pressures that adversely affected oceans and seas, including the loss of living coral, the increase in pollution from plastics and the overexploitation of fish stocks, and noted the growth in deoxygenated dead zones, ocean acidification, sea level rise and other impacts of climate change. He underscored the need for urgent action to reverse the cycle of decline of the oceans, as well as the need to acknowledge the critical role of the human dimension of the ocean, including the gender dimension.

15. The Secretary-General emphasized that, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the full implementation of international law as reflected in the Convention was the key means to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other ocean-related targets. He encouraged all States to become parties to the Convention and to approach the task of its full implementation with renewed commitment and vigour. Furthermore, noting the importance of cross-sectoral action, the Secretary-General indicated that the outcome of the 2017 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was helping to guide actions. He underlined the need for concerted

⁴ Rule 14 provides that the Credentials Committee “shall consist of nine States Parties”; however, only eight nominations were received from the regional groups.

action towards the sustainable development of the oceans and their resources before the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

16. In commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, delegations underscored its achievements as the “constitution for the oceans”, recalling that the Convention set out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

17. Many delegations lauded the Convention as one of the most successful international treaties ever negotiated and as a milestone for international cooperation and multilateralism. Delegations stressed that the Convention struck a careful balance between the freedoms, rights and obligations of States parties, as well as among the diverse interests of States, and served as a cornerstone of the rule of law in international relations. Several delegations paid tribute to those who had drafted the Convention.

18. The universal character of the Convention was also underscored, with many delegations emphasizing that the Convention codified existing customary international law. Several delegations called upon States that had not done so to become parties to the Convention and to its implementing agreements.

19. In their interventions, delegations also emphasized the contribution of the Convention to the strengthening of international peace and security, the governance of maritime spaces navigational rights and duties, the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

20. Several delegations highlighted the contribution of the Convention to the rule of law through its comprehensive dispute settlement regime, which facilitated the peaceful resolution of disputes at the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and arbitral tribunals.

21. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the bodies established under the Convention, namely, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the Tribunal, and the International Seabed Authority. Delegations also acknowledged the work of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

22. Delegations emphasized that the Convention provided the framework within which current, new and emerging challenges related to ocean space should be resolved. In that context, they expressed concerns over the significant anthropogenic pressures on the marine environment, such as pollution, including from plastics, overfishing, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the effects of climate change, including ocean acidification and sea level rise. Several delegations stressed the importance of the Convention in addressing illegal activities such as piracy and other threats to maritime security. Delegations underlined the need for increased cooperation and coordination at all levels to address those challenges.

23. As a framework instrument, several delegations noted that the Convention had proven to be sufficiently flexible to address new concerns and needs at the national, regional and global levels, as evidenced by the conclusion of its two implementing agreements, as well as the ongoing negotiations on an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Many delegations expressed their hopes for the successful and timely conclusion of those negotiations.

24. Delegations stressed the importance of the implementation of the Convention for the achievement of sustainable development and recalled, in that context, the 2030 Agenda and Goal 14. The essential role of ocean science in the sustainable

management of oceans was also underscored by a number of delegations and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 were highlighted as important global initiatives in that regard.

25. Several delegations noted the ongoing efforts of their countries to promote the implementation of the Convention through capacity-building initiatives. Other delegations stressed the need for further efforts to promote capacity-building, including through the transfer of knowledge and technology. States were also encouraged to contribute to the trust funds managed by the Secretariat.

26. Many delegations shared recent national or regional experiences with regard to the implementation of the Convention. In that context, several delegations referred to ocean-related initiatives and processes at the national and regional levels. Referring to recent maritime incidents, some delegations emphasized the importance of the rescue of persons in distress at sea.

V. Matters related to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

A. Report of the Tribunal for 2018

27. The President of the Tribunal, Judge Jin-Hyun Paik, introduced the annual report for 2018 ([SPLOS/29/2](#)) and provided an overview of the activities of the Tribunal and the work carried out during its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions, which had been devoted to legal, judicial, organizational and administrative matters.³ He also provided information on developments in the work of the Tribunal that had taken place in 2019 before the present Meeting.

28. In terms of the work of the Tribunal on judicial matters, the President provided an overview of several cases, namely, the *M/V Norstar* case (*Panama v. Italy*) and its judgment of 10 April 2019, the *Case concerning the detention of three Ukrainian naval vessels (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)* and its order on provisional measures of 25 May 2019 and the *M/T San Padre Pio* case (*Switzerland v. Nigeria*), for which an order was expected in early July.

29. The President then drew attention to the resignation of the Registrar of the Tribunal, Philippe Gautier, in order to take up the function of Registrar of the International Court of Justice, effective 31 July 2019, and expressed appreciation for his outstanding service to the Tribunal for more than two decades.

30. The President referred to the capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the Tribunal, including its twelfth capacity-building and training programme on dispute settlement under the Convention, the annual summer academy organized by the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea, a regional workshop on the settlement of disputes held in Cabo Verde in May 2018 and a regional workshop planned to be held in Uruguay in November 2019; as well as special trust funds established to provide financial assistance for participants from developing countries in the internship programme and the summer academy (see [SPLOS/29/2](#), sect. XVII).

31. In the ensuing discussions, many delegations highlighted the significant contribution of the Tribunal to advancing peace and security, the rule of law and the development of international jurisprudence on the law of sea. A number of delegations noted with appreciation the important contributions of recent judgments of the Tribunal. The increasing diversity of cases brought before the Tribunal was also

noted. The role of the Tribunal in providing guidance on the application of modern principles of international environmental law in the context of the Convention and the methodology for maritime delimitation or obligations of due diligence in the implementation of the Convention was specifically highlighted. The critical contribution of the Tribunal to ocean governance was also noted, in addition to the potential role of the Tribunal with regard to an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

32. Divergent views were expressed by some delegations on the Order of the Tribunal on provisional measures in the *Case concerning the detention of three Ukrainian naval vessels (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*. Another delegation expressed the view that the Tribunal should consider reporting on the implementation of its judgments and decisions. A third delegation considered that the Tribunal should establish that its members, like the judges of the International Court of Justice, should not participate in international arbitration. A delegation referred to its recent declaration under article 287 of the Convention, choosing the Tribunal as a means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of that Convention. Another delegation emphasized the importance of consent by States parties regarding the resolution of disputes that they were involved in and expressed the view that the Tribunal should address jurisdictional issues with caution.

33. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the capacity-building programmes of the Tribunal, including the internship programme, regional workshops and summer training courses, as well as support for the continuation and expansion of those programmes. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the outreach activities of the Tribunal, including its efforts to foster dialogue with those working in academia and the field of maritime affairs.

34. The Meeting took note of the report of the Tribunal for 2018.

B. Administrative and budgetary matters

1. Report of the external auditor for the financial period 2017–2018

35. The Registrar of the Tribunal introduced the report of the external auditor for the financial period 2017–2018, with financial statements of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea as at 31 December 2018 (SPLOS/29/4). The report had been examined by the Tribunal during its session in March 2019. The Registrar highlighted that, according to the auditor, the financial statements provided a true and fair view of the Tribunal's net assets and financial position and the results of operations, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal.

36. Several delegations welcomed the auditor's report, noting that the principles of regularity and efficiency in budget expenditure were respected by the Tribunal and that its financial statements were prepared in accordance with the corresponding Financial Regulations and Rules. Those delegations noted the efforts of the Tribunal to maintain the collection of payments of contributions from States parties, reduce the overdue balances from just over €1,000,000 as at 31 December 2016 to €278,834 and increase the cash balance by nearly €1,500,000. Delegations acknowledged with appreciation that the Tribunal had procured goods and services in line with its requirements and that the recruitment and engagement of staff had been carried out in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the Tribunal.

37. The Meeting took note of the report of the external auditor for the financial period 2017–2018.

2. Report on budgetary matters for the financial period 2017–2018

38. The Registrar introduced the report on budgetary matters for the financial period 2017–2018 ([SPLOS/29/3](#)), covering the issues outlined below.

(a) Budget performance report for 2017–2018

39. The Registrar drew attention to section I of the annex to the report. He noted, in particular, that the total expenditure for the period 2017–2018 stood at €18,105,109, representing 85.73 per cent of the appropriations allocated for that year. The savings were explained by lower expenditure in the budget lines for the pension scheme of the members of the Tribunal and staff costs, the absence of urgent proceedings submitted to the Tribunal during the financial period 2017–2018 and the cost-effective management of cases Nos. 23 and 25.

40. The Registrar also drew attention to the fact that assessed contributions of €965,522 had not been paid by the end of 2018, representing more than 4.5 per cent of the approved budget. He stressed that all States parties were required to pay their contributions in accordance with regulation 5.5 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal. As at 1 June 2019, the unpaid amount stood at €729,161.

41. Responding to questions relating to the amount of cash surplus in the budget, the Registrar explained that any surplus balance needed to be viewed in the light of the arrears in outstanding contributions. He confirmed that any cash surplus would be surrendered to States parties in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules. A decision would need to be taken in that regard by States parties when the new budget was proposed and the cash surplus fixed at the following Meeting of States Parties.

42. In response to a query regarding the potential impact of the future workload of the Tribunal on the budget, the Registrar indicated that the Tribunal would be able to meet the expenses relating to an additional new urgent case on the basis of the current allocation and the savings owing to the management of the *M/V Norstar* case, the *Case concerning the detention of three Ukrainian naval vessels (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)* and the *M/T San Padre Pio* case. In addition, he noted that the Working Capital Fund was available to meet case-related expenditure, including a further urgent proceeding, if necessary.

43. Several delegations expressed concern over the high level of arrears in the payment of assessed contributions, called upon all States parties to honour their commitments and pay contributions in full and in a timely manner and requested that the Tribunal continue its efforts to collect outstanding contributions.

(b) Report on action taken pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal

44. Referring to section II of the report, the Registrar noted that the cash surplus from the financial period 2015–2016 was negative and therefore that no funds had been surrendered to States parties. He also explained that the funds in the China Institute of International Studies trust fund and the twentieth anniversary trust fund had been fully utilized and the accounts closed.

(c) Projections of the pension scheme of the members of the Tribunal

45. Referring to section III of the report, the Registrar noted that expenditure incurred with regard to the payment of pensions to former members and surviving spouses had increased, amounting to \$936,168 in the year 2018. Further to a request at the twenty-eighth Meeting, the auditor had calculated the pension projection for

future financial periods on the basis of the composition of the Tribunal since 1996 and the corresponding pension entitlements. The auditor thus estimated that the pension payments would reach a steady level in around 2027 and that the annual payments would then stabilize at approximately \$1,300,000 per year.

46. The Meeting took note, with satisfaction, of the report on budgetary matters for the financial period 2017–2018.

3. Nomination of a member and an alternate member to the staff pension committee of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

47. The Meeting considered the note by the Tribunal on the nomination of a member and an alternate member to the staff pension committee of the Tribunal ([SPLOS/29/5](#)) and subsequently decided to extend the nominations of Indonesia as member and Canada as alternate member of the staff pension committee for a three-year term of office starting on 1 January 2020 (see [SPLOS/29/8](#)).

48. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Registrar for his contribution to the work of the Tribunal over the previous 22 years and wished him success in his future endeavours.

VI. Information on the activities of the International Seabed Authority

49. The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Michael Lodge, provided information on the activities carried out by the Authority since the twenty-eighth Meeting.³

50. He stated that the highest priority for the Authority was the advancement of its work on the mining code, with a target date of 2020 for the adoption of regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. The Legal and Technical Commission of the Authority had concluded its work and proposed a set of draft regulations for consideration by the Council. In May 2019, a workshop had been held in Pretoria on the development of standards and guidelines to support the implementation of the mining code. The workshop had been focused on critical components of the development process that would assist the Legal and Technical Commission in designing an appropriate programme of work for the delivery of standards and guidelines and in making the necessary recommendations to the Council of the Authority for its consideration.

51. With respect to the financial terms of exploitation of contracts, an open-ended working group of the Council was considering an economic model for deep sea mining prepared for the Authority by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

52. The Secretary-General noted that a report by his Special Representative for the Enterprise on issues relating to the operation of the Enterprise, in particular the legal, technical and financial implications for the Authority and for States parties to the Convention, was available online ([ISBA/25/C/26](#)). The report included recommendations, as well as information on the status of negotiations with the Government of Poland on a proposal to enter into a joint venture with the Enterprise.

53. With regard to the periodic review of the regime for the Area carried out pursuant to article 154 of the Convention, the Secretary-General recalled that the first-ever strategic plan for the Authority, covering the period 2019–2023, had been adopted by the Authority's Assembly in 2018 ([ISBA/24/A/10](#), annex) and represented an important step forward in guiding the strategic direction of the Authority in the context of the 2030 Agenda. A draft high-level action plan to implement the strategic

plan had been made available for public consultation in May 2019, and a revised version would be issued shortly. A document containing draft performance indicators was also available online ([ISBA/25/A/5](#)).

54. The Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the 49 States parties that had paid their assessed contributions for 2019 but also concern that the number of States in arrears for more than two years had increased to 56, with arrears amounting to \$715,862. He noted that nine States parties had not paid their assessed contributions since the establishment of the Authority and stressed that extended arrears had implications not only for the full exercise of membership rights, but also for the overall exercise of the Authority's functions.

55. In the ensuing discussions, many delegations reaffirmed the central role of the Authority in the peaceful and sustainable management of mining activities in the Area for the benefit of all humankind and expressed support for its continuing work. The role of the Authority in ensuring the effective protection of the marine environment and its work in supporting marine scientific research were also highlighted by several delegations.

56. Many delegations welcomed the adoption of the strategic plan by the Authority, noting the open, inclusive and transparent way in which it had been developed. Several of those delegations noted that the strategic plan contained a bold vision for the work of the Authority over a five-year period. Several delegations also commended the work to implement the strategic plan through the high-level action plan and performance indicators.

57. Delegations welcomed the continuing work of the Authority in the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework for the exploitation of minerals in the Area, in particular the release of the draft regulations in early 2019 and ongoing work on the financial terms of contractors. Some delegations welcomed and encouraged the increased participation of member States in the recent session of the Authority, which had led to richer and more productive discussions on the draft regulations.

58. The role of the regulations on exploitation in implementing the principle of the common heritage of humankind was underscored by some delegations. In that context, a view was expressed that the regulations should strike a reasonable balance between mineral exploitation and environmental protection. The need to prevent damage to the environment was highlighted by several delegations and one suggested that the regulations could draw on the environmental protections applicable to mining activities on land.

59. Some delegations welcomed the requirements in the draft regulations regarding regional environmental management plans, as well as the adoption of the first regional environmental management plan in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone. Noting a divergence of views with regard to regional environmental management plans, one delegation stressed the importance of defining from the outset both the responsibilities and the obligations deriving from such plans to ensure their orderly establishment and scientific management.

60. A delegation stressed the need for the regulations to include fair and equitable payment mechanisms for benefit-sharing; regulatory mechanisms that clearly allocate roles and functions, as well as the rights and responsibilities associated with them; and an efficient, transparent and accountable decision-making mechanism. The hope was expressed that the regulations would be developed gradually through extensive discussions and on the basis of consensus.

61. Some delegations underscored the importance of the Enterprise and the need for its independent operation. A view was expressed that the establishment of joint ventures should be the approach to be followed after the Enterprise became

operational and that the development of substantive and procedural rules governing the establishment of such joint ventures should be a priority.

62. Delegations highlighted the capacity-building activities and the essential role of capacity-building in allowing the informed participation of States in the work of the Authority. Concern was expressed over the financial situation of the Authority and a delegation noted the ever-increasing importance of guaranteeing intellectual, human and financial resources for the Authority. Another delegation urged States parties to the Convention to become parties to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority.

63. The Meeting took note of the information reported by the Secretary-General of the Authority.

VII. Matters related to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

A. Information reported by the Chair of the Commission

64. The Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, Yong Ahn Park, made a statement providing information on the activities of the Commission since the twenty-eighth Meeting (SPLOS/29/6),^{3,5} including regarding membership, the consideration of submissions and draft recommendations and the workload and working conditions of the members of the Commission.

65. The Chair reported that the Commission had approved three recommendations, bringing the total number of approved recommendations to 32.

66. He also noted that, despite the recent filling of one of two vacancies in the Commission with the election of Yong Tang (China) at the resumed twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties, in January 2019, a seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States was still unfilled and remained a matter of ongoing concern, as it had adversely affected the discharge of the Commission's functions for more than 13 sessions. Drawing attention to the fact that the work of the Commission had also been negatively affected by the significant absences of some members for a variety of other reasons, including conflicting obligations, health and unresolved issues concerning their conditions of service, the Chair stressed the need for practical, tenable and sustainable solutions. More generally, he noted that, since its inception, the Commission had been making every effort to fulfil the significant role entrusted to it under the Convention and by the States parties. He also noted that, in response to a request from the Meeting of States Parties in 2011 (see SPLOS/229), the Commission had decided to meet for a total of 21 weeks a year. In that connection, he observed with regret that issues relating to the workload of members of the Commission remained unresolved. On behalf of the members of the Commission, the Chair urged the Meeting of States Parties to identify practical, tenable and sustainable solutions to those challenges, which would be commensurate with the upgrade in the working arrangements of the Commission and lead to the proper and equal treatment of the members of the Commission. The Chair also expressed the hope that those issues would be addressed by the Meeting of States Parties as soon as possible, with the objective of achieving a reasonable and comprehensive resolution.

67. In the ensuing discussions, delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Commission, especially in the light of the challenges that it faced with

⁵ For detailed information on the forty-seventh, forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission, see CLCS/105, CLCS/106 and CLCS/108, respectively.

respect to its high workload and the conditions of service of its members. Many delegations highlighted the importance of the work of the Commission for the exercise by coastal States of their sovereign rights and jurisdiction, as well as for the delineation of the limits of the Area. A view was expressed that transparent and inclusive consideration and consistent and well-founded recommendations by the Commission represented the basis necessary for the establishment of final and binding outer limits of the continental shelf by coastal States. Several delegations suggested that the Commission should consider further steps to expedite the consideration of submissions.

68. Delegations noted with appreciation that the Commission had approved three recommendations during the reporting period. Many delegations also noted with appreciation the high quality of services rendered to the Commission by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. Some delegations urged the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures within the overall existing resources to further strengthen the capacity of the Division to ensure the provision of enhanced support and assistance to the Commission.

69. With regard to the increased workload of the Commission, many delegations noted the considerable number of submissions yet to be considered by the Commission and the demands placed on its members and the Division, and expressed concern over the delay between the time a submission was made by a State party and the time it was considered by the Commission. It was noted that that delay posed an additional burden for submitting States. The logistical challenges with respect to the retention of technical expertise and the maintenance of software were especially acute for developing States.

70. A number of delegations expressed views regarding submissions currently before the Commission. Some delegations noted the high scientific standards and high level of engagement that they had experienced when dealing with the Commission and its subcommissions. A delegation proposed that the Commission make at least a preliminary consideration of the technical aspects of submissions that had been deferred on the basis of objections. Another delegation noted that the decision by the Commission to defer consideration of a submission owing to the existence of disputes was consistent with its rules of procedure. A third delegation reiterated its deep concern regarding the continued deferral of its submission, despite the amendment of the submission following the issuance of rulings by the Tribunal and the Permanent Court of Arbitration to resolve disputes with neighbouring States that had objected to such consideration. A delegation mentioned the difficulties concerning the interpretation and application of the Statement of Understanding Concerning a Specific Method to be Used in Establishing the Outer Edge of the Continental Margin, annexed to the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

71. With respect to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission, several delegations recognized that, despite improvements made to date, further efforts were needed to ensure that the Commission could perform its mandate effectively, in view of its high level of expertise. A delegation noted the pressing need to establish minimum conditions for members of the Commission regarding the space, time and resources necessary for reviewing submissions in a timely fashion. A view was expressed that further discussions were needed on how to reduce the financial burden of nominating States in defraying the expenses of members while in performance of Commission duties.

72. On behalf of the Commission, the Chair expressed appreciation for the words of encouragement and support from States parties and for the contributions to the

voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the costs of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in its meetings.

73. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea provided information on the status of the two trust funds that it administered in relation to the Commission. With regard to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, since the twenty-eighth Meeting, contributions had been received from Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal and the Republic of Korea, and a contribution from Iceland was forthcoming. The balance of the fund, at the end of May 2019, was approximately \$120,000 after funds had been allocated for assistance in respect of the forthcoming fiftieth session of the Commission. The fifty-first session was projected to cost approximately \$165,000, on the assumption that the same number of members would request assistance as at the previous session. Participants were informed that, without additional contributions, it would not be possible for the Secretariat to provide financial assistance for members of the Commission from developing States to participate in the last session of 2019 and beyond. In addition, it would not be possible to reimburse members for the costs of medical travel insurance and short-term medical insurance, notwithstanding the authorization contained in paragraph 99 of resolution 73/124. The Director recalled the appeal by the General Assembly for further financial contributions to be made to the trust funds in order to enable the Commission to fulfil its mandate with full membership.

74. With regard to the voluntary 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, since the twenty-eighth Meeting, requests from five developing States for assistance with the preparation of their submissions to the Commission had been approved, and six developing States had received assistance to cover the travel and daily subsistence allowance costs associated with meetings with the Commission and its subcommissions. At the end of May 2019, the balance of the fund available for disbursement was approximately \$780,000.

75. The importance of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission and the important role of the voluntary trust fund for facilitating the participation of Commission members from developing countries was underscored. It was noted that, by contributing to the full attendance of members, the fund allowed the Commission to carry out its work in the most efficient manner. Some delegations pledged to make, or stated that they had made, contributions to that fund. Delegations expressed appreciation to States that had made contributions to that fund.

76. The Meeting took note of the information reported by the Chair of the Commission and provided by the Secretariat.

B. Conditions of service of the members of the Commission

1. Appointment of new Co-Coordiators of the Open-ended Working Group

77. By a letter dated 4 June 2019, the Co-Coordinator of the Open-ended Working Group on the Conditions of Service of the Members of the Commission, Anastasia Strati (Greece), had informed the President of the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties that she was no longer in a position to continue serving in that capacity.

78. The Meeting appointed Sidney Gregory Kemble (Netherlands) to replace Ms. Strati and María Alejandrina Sande (Uruguay) to replace James Waweru (Kenya), who had conveyed his resignation to the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/324, para. 73), as Co-Coordinator of the Working Group. On behalf of the Meeting, the President expressed appreciation for the efforts and contributions of Ms. Strati and Mr. Waweru to the Working Group.

2. Report of the Open-ended Working Group

79. Ms. Strati, in a report submitted to the Meeting in writing, provided information about the progress made by the Working Group since the twenty-eighth Meeting.³

80. The Working Group had continued intersessionally to consider issues relating to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission, in particular medical insurance coverage, including the outcome of the discussions in the context of the informal consultations on the draft resolution of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea, which had ultimately led to the adoption of paragraph 101 of resolution 73/124 and allowed the members of the Commission the option of participating in the Headquarters medical insurance scheme upon payment of the full cost of the premium.

81. Meetings had also been convened between Ms. Strati and members of the Commission to discuss medical insurance and minimum standards of travel, accommodation, daily subsistence allowance and other financial and non-monetary aspects for all members of the Commission, whether from developed or developing States. It was reported that meetings had also been held with representatives of nominating States to discuss those issues, including the aforementioned decision of the General Assembly in resolution 73/124.

82. Delegations thanked the former Co-Coordinator of the Working Group, Ms. Strati, for her report and the progress made during the intersessional period. Several delegations acknowledged the long-standing challenges with respect to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission and the need to resolve those issues to ensure that the Commission could undertake its work in the best way possible.

83. Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to provide members of the Commission with the option of joining the Headquarters medical insurance scheme, some delegations nonetheless acknowledged that further discussion of the implementation of that option was needed for the members of the Commission to actually benefit from it. They recalled the provision in the Convention pursuant to which States that had submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission were to defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties. In their view, those expenses included medical insurance coverage.

84. A delegation also noted the need for further discussions of the minimum standards of travel, accommodation, daily subsistence allowance and other financial and non-monetary aspects to be guaranteed to all members of the Commission in order to ensure equal and fair conditions of service. That delegation observed that, while voluntary in nature, the adoption of such minimum standards would send a clear signal to nominating States. Another delegation raised concerns regarding the implementation of minimum standards, owing to restrictions in national legislation, but emphasized its readiness to continue discussions in order to identify solutions that could benefit the Commission and also be workable for nominating States.

85. The Working Group, chaired by the new Co-Coordinator, continued to consider issues relating to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission during the twenty-ninth Meeting, including the need for both short-term and long-term

solutions. In their report,³ the Co-Coordination suggested that the Secretariat conduct a comprehensive survey among Commission members and nominating States with respect to the conditions of service of members of the Commission and the costs currently defrayed by nominating States. That survey would assist the Working Group in advance of the first round of informal consultations on the draft General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea during the seventy-fourth session. The Co-Coordination also proposed requesting that the Secretariat prepare a comprehensive study that set out possible options to address the working conditions of the Commission, including its funding, to be discussed by the Meeting of States Parties in 2020. According to that proposal, the study should cover such options as the payment of a fee in connection with the making of submissions, which developing States could pay with assistance from the relevant trust fund and the conversion of the Commission into a full-time body. The study should also include information on the minimum requirements that nominating States should meet with regard to the treatment of the members of the Commission nominated by them, if elected. In addition, the Secretariat was requested to consult with nominating developing States of members of the Commission to determine whether the States would be in a position to provide accommodation for their nominated member and thus reduce the costs of daily subsistence allowances paid through the relevant fund. States parties also agreed that an amendment to the terms of reference of that fund would be put forward during consultations on the draft resolution of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea to allow for the possibility of reimbursing members of the Commission from developing States for the costs of joining the Headquarters medical insurance scheme.

86. The Meeting endorsed the proposals by the Co-Coordination.

C. Filling of a vacancy in the Commission

87. The President recalled that the Meeting of States Parties had not been in a position to elect all 21 members of the Commission at its twenty-seventh Meeting in 2017, as the Group of Eastern European States, which was entitled to three seats under the Convention, as also set out in the Arrangement for the allocation of seats on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (SPLOS/201), had not been able to put forward nominations for one of the seats allocated to that Group (see SPLOS/316, sect. VII-B, SPLOS/324, sect. VI-C, and SPLOS/327, sect. V.).

88. The Russian Federation, as the Chair of the Group of Eastern European States for the month of June, reported that no nominations had been made but that efforts had been ongoing to identify a candidate as soon as possible.

89. A number of delegations noted with concern the continued vacancy, which had a detrimental effect on the workload of the Commission and the achievement of a quorum in meetings of the subcommissions. A delegation stressed the need for urgent consideration of the steps required to ensure full membership in the Commission. Another delegation expressed disappointment over the lack of nominations and recalled that the matter had been discussed at the twenty-eighth Meeting, including the possibility of considering alternative solutions of a temporary and extraordinary nature. That delegation expressed the hope that a candidate would be identified in the near future.

90. The Meeting decided that, if the Group of Eastern European States informed the President by 16 September 2019 that candidates had been identified, a new call for nominations would be circulated by the Secretary-General. A resumed session of the twenty-ninth Meeting would then be convened to conduct a by-election before the

fifty-second session of the Commission, subject to the approval of the General Assembly in the light of the financial implications involved. If no candidates were identified by the Group of Eastern European States by that deadline, the Secretary-General would circulate a call for nominations with a view to conducting by-elections at the thirtieth Meeting, provided that the President received information about potential candidates at least 14 weeks before the commencement of that Meeting. In the absence of such information, the Meeting would revert to the consideration of that matter under the agenda item “Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf”.

VIII. Report of the Secretary-General under article 319 of the Convention

91. The Meeting considered the annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (A/73/368 and A/74/70) that had been submitted to States parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention since the twenty-eighth Meeting. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for the useful and comprehensive reports.

92. Delegations reaffirmed that the Convention set out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and underlined the universal character of the Convention and its role as the “constitution for the oceans”. Some delegations noted the commitment to multilateralism represented by the Convention.

93. Delegations also highlighted the contribution of the Convention to maintaining international peace and security, settling disputes peacefully, enhancing friendly relations among all States, protecting and preserving the marine environment and strengthening the rule of law in the oceans and seas. Delegations underscored the need to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention and its implementing agreements to achieve the goal of universal participation and to ensure their full and effective implementation. A delegation called for an accurate and holistic interpretation and application of the Convention in good faith and underlined that matters not regulated under the Convention continued to be governed by the rules and principles of general international law.

94. Delegations also highlighted and expressed appreciation for the important work of the three bodies established under the Convention, namely the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

95. Many delegations highlighted the importance of the Convention for the achievement of Goal 14, which was also crucial for realizing the other Goals established in the 2030 Agenda. Some delegations also reaffirmed the importance of implementing the declaration “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted at the 2017 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. They also welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to convene the 2020 Conference on the overarching theme “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”.

96. Many delegations expressed support for the ongoing work of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. A number of delegations noted the progress that had been made during the first and second sessions of the conference and expressed their views on various issues under negotiation. Several delegations stressed the need

to conclude negotiations by mid-2020. A number of delegations expressed their gratitude for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the sessions of the conference.

97. The critical role of ocean science in the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources was highlighted by delegations, and the need to advance ocean science through international cooperation and in accordance with the Convention was underscored. Several delegations drew attention, in that context, to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and welcomed the work of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea during its twentieth meeting on the topic of focus “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”. Some delegations also highlighted the importance of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects in that context. The regional workshops in support of the Regular Process and the importance of engaging in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process were underlined.

98. Several delegations expressed concern about overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. A delegation urged all States parties to take appropriate measures at the national, regional and global levels to put an end to such practices. Some delegations described the measures that they had taken to combat such fishing, including the conclusion and ratification of new regional fisheries instruments, strengthened cooperation with existing regional fisheries management organizations and the development and implementation of national legal and policy frameworks in line with international standards.

99. A number of delegations expressed concern about the threats and pressures faced by the aquatic environment, such as pollution from land-based sources, in particular marine debris, plastics and microplastics, ocean acidification, the loss of marine biodiversity, marine habitat destruction, the degradation of hydrographic basins, algae bloom and anthropogenic underwater noise and called for further action to address those problems. Several delegations indicated that greater use should be made of area-based management tools and environmental impact assessments and highlighted the need for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology in that regard.

100. Several delegations stressed the importance of addressing the adverse effects of climate change on oceans and noted the particular vulnerability of developing countries to those effects. A delegation called for additional and predictable financial resources to support the participation of developing countries in the global response to climate change. Another delegation noted its ongoing efforts to assist small island developing States in meeting the challenges of climate change, including a commitment to ensuring that any maritime zones delimited in accordance with the Convention would be protected from challenge or reduction, even if the coastline or maritime features of a country changed owing to the rise in sea level induced by climate change. That delegation indicated that that issue should be discussed multilaterally. A third delegation welcomed the inclusion of the topic concerning sea level rise in relation to international law in the programme of work of the International Law Commission, as an open-ended working group.

101. Several delegations provided information on specific challenges in their maritime zones, such as marine pollution, in particular marine debris, plastics and microplastics, and the adverse effects of climate change. Information was also

provided on actions that could be taken at the national and regional levels to address those challenges, including becoming parties to relevant global and regional instruments; revising or adopting policies and legislation consistent with the Convention; promoting marine scientific research; strengthening management of coastal and marine areas; protecting and preserving vulnerable marine ecosystems and important marine habitats; designating marine protected areas and establishing other area-based conservation measures; strengthening partnerships with indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society; and convening relevant international conferences, symposiums and workshops.

102. Some delegations highlighted the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for achieving the sustainable development of the oceans and their resources and called for concerted action to reach those goals in all ocean-related sectors. Attention was drawn to the theme of World Oceans Day for 2019, namely, “Gender and the Ocean”, with a delegation noting that it had organized several events to promote gender equality in ocean-related activities.

103. Several delegations expressed deep concern about the unsafe movement of people by sea and affirmed the commitment of their countries to addressing that issue, as exemplified by actions taken in different forums, including follow-up initiatives to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa. A delegation affirmed the determination of its country to combat human trafficking and noted measures that the latter had taken to combat forced labour and unsafe labour practices.

104. Several delegations acknowledged the importance of relevant African initiatives to enhance regional and subregional coordination to strengthen maritime security. Mindful of the recent resurgence of incidents of piracy, those delegations considered that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing was the root cause of piracy against ships in certain maritime areas of Africa, and they stressed the need to address such root cause.

105. Many delegations highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing States to implement the Convention and related instruments and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and their marine resources. A delegation noted that some middle-income countries also faced significant challenges in achieving sustainable development, which required capacity-building. Several delegations referred to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Those and other delegations expressed the view that the transfer of marine technology should be implemented in accordance with the Convention. A delegation supported the strengthening of technological development using a multidisciplinary approach and multisectoral cooperation. Another delegation stressed the ongoing need for capacity-building in order for developing countries to engage constructively with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf with respect to their submissions, in view of the lengthy timeline for the consideration of such submissions, and reiterated a call for the active consideration of measures in order to maintain a sufficiently knowledgeable pool of experts in those States. Attention was also drawn to capacity-building activities carried out under the auspices of the Authority and the International Maritime Organization.

106. Some delegations provided information on the recent settlement of maritime boundaries. A delegation called upon all States parties to respect ongoing negotiations, including concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and early discussions toward a code of conduct in the South China Sea, and to refrain from unilateral acts that might escalate tensions at sea, including militarization and the threat or use of force. Another

delegation stressed the need for States to resolve their differences through bilateral negotiations and for such efforts to be supported.

107. With regard to the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Strait of Kerch, a delegation stated that, since 2014, its rights under the Convention and other relevant rules of international law had been violated, citing in particular the exploitation of hydrocarbons and fishery resources and construction projects resulting in interference with navigation and transit passage and with the protection and preservation of the marine environment. That delegation urged the relevant State to comply with an order for provisional measures by the Tribunal and indicated that it would proceed to protect its rights before an arbitral tribunal to be constituted pursuant to annex VII to the Convention in order to resolve the dispute peacefully and by legal means. Another delegation, in the exercise of its right of reply, expressed the view that the Meeting was not the appropriate forum to discuss such matters as its mandate was restricted to administrative, financial and procedural issues. That delegation stated that it enjoyed sovereign rights and exercised jurisdiction in the maritime areas off the coast of Crimea in compliance with international law and ensured the safe passage of ships. Moreover, that delegation noted that it had not participated in the proceedings before the Tribunal as, when ratifying the Convention, both parties had made statements limiting the scope of compulsory procedures entailing binding decisions under part XV of the Convention, which excluded the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

108. An observer delegation noted that article 319 of the Convention was not intended to and did not empower the Meeting to perform general or broad reviews of general topics of interest or to engage in the interpretation of the provisions of the Convention. The mandate of the Meeting was restricted to administrative, financial and procedural issues.

109. Speaking as an observer, the delegation of the Permanent Court of Arbitration informed delegations of developments with respect to arbitrations that it administered pursuant to annex VII to the Convention and other arbitral proceedings concerning the law of the sea. The delegation recalled the conciliation between Australia and Timor-Leste under annex V to the Convention. That delegation also noted that it had served as registry in proceedings conducted by a review panel in a matter pertaining to a regional fisheries management organization.

110. The Meeting took note of the reports of the Secretary-General under article 319 and the views expressed by delegations under that agenda item and decided to include the same agenda item in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth Meeting.

IX. Other matters

A. Trust funds and fellowships

111. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea provided information on the current status and projected funding requirements of the trust funds administered by the Division other than those related to the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, which had been considered under agenda item 11 (see paras. 73 and 74). She recalled the contribution process at the United Nations, noting that, for the accurate and effective administration of the funds, it was very important for donor States to ensure that the intended beneficiary trust fund was clearly indicated in the transfer order and that related correspondence was received by the Division on a timely basis.

112. With regard to the voluntary trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Director

informed the Meeting that no contributions or applications for assistance had been received since the twenty-eighth Meeting. At the end of April 2019, the Fund had an approximate balance of \$150,000.

113. With respect to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea trust fund, contributions had been received from Ireland, Monaco and Sri Lanka since the twenty-eighth Meeting. The 2019 fellowship had been awarded to Sougleman Mingoli (Togo). The Director noted that, for a number of years, the fund had been chronically underfunded and that it would be near depletion by the end of the current Fellowship award. Without additional contributions, it would not be possible to provide for a Fellowship in 2020.

114. Regarding the voluntary trust fund for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, contributions had been received from Estonia, Ireland, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea since the twenty-eighth Meeting. At the end of April 2019, the fund had an approximate balance of \$120,000.

115. Regarding the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, contributions had been received from Estonia and New Zealand since the twenty-eighth Meeting. As of the end of the twentieth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process in June 2019, at which costs had been defrayed for 11 panellists and a representative from developing countries, the fund had an approximate balance of \$20,000.

116. Regarding the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and an intergovernmental conference on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, contributions had been received from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Qatar, Singapore and Slovakia. At the end of April 2019, the fund had an approximate balance of \$25,000. The Secretariat expected that, owing to strong demand for assistance under the fund, it would not be possible to provide assistance to all applicants for the forthcoming third session of the intergovernmental conference, to be held in August 2019, unless additional contributions were received by 5 July 2019. The Director reminded delegations that the deadline for completing applications was 28 June 2019 and that priority would be given to applicants from the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. States were also urged to avoid cancellations of requests for assistance and “no-shows” for flights in order to ensure the proper and effective functioning of the fund.

117. The Director expressed the gratitude of the Secretariat to all States that had made contributions to the trust funds. She emphasized that the chronic underfunding of the funds was a serious problem and reiterated the appeal contained in resolution [73/124](#) to States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the trust funds.

118. The Meeting took note of the information on trust funds and fellowships that had been provided by the Secretariat.

B. Participation of intergovernmental organizations and other entities in the Meetings of States Parties

119. The Director outlined previous actions of the Meeting in respect of that matter (SPLOS/303, paras. 113 and 114, and SPLOS/316, paras. 109 and 110). She explained that, in order to ensure consistency between the ocean-related meetings convened by the General Assembly and the Meetings of States Parties with respect to the participation of intergovernmental organizations and other entities, and to streamline the participation of various organizations in the Meetings of States Parties, document SPLOS/320 had been revised by the Secretariat in line with General Assembly resolution 72/249, in which the Assembly comprehensively addressed the issue of the participation of various categories of organizations as observers to the intergovernmental conference (see SPLOS/320/Rev.1).

120. The Meeting agreed with the approach proposed by the Secretariat and decided to issue a standing invitation to the categories of organizations identified in paragraph 4 of document SPLOS/320/Rev.1, in line with resolution 72/249, to participate in the Meetings of States Parties as observers.

C. Revision of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties for gender inclusivity

121. The Director presented a proposal by the Secretariat, based on editorial directive ST/CS/SER.A/41, to introduce gender-inclusive editorial changes to the rules of procedure. The Meeting endorsed the proposal. The revised rules of procedure would be issued as SPLOS/2/Rev.5 in electronic format and in the six official languages.

D. Deposit of charts and lists of geographical coordinates under the Convention

122. The Director observed that States parties had often approached the Secretariat for assistance in respect of the deposit with the Secretary-General of charts or lists of geographical coordinates of points under the Convention. She recalled that, in its resolution 49/28 of 6 December 1994, the General Assembly had requested that the Secretary-General fulfil the functions consequent upon the entry into force of the Convention, in particular by establishing appropriate facilities, as required under the Convention, for the deposit by States of maps, charts and geographic coordinates concerning national maritime zones and establishing a system for their recording and publicity distinct from the usual depositary functions of the Secretary-General. She also recalled that the Assembly had further specified in its resolution 52/26 of 26 November 1997 that the activities of the Secretary-General in that regard included developing and maintaining the appropriate facilities for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, and to give due publicity thereto, as required under article 16, paragraph 2, article 47, paragraph 9, article 75, paragraph 2, article 76, paragraph 9 and article 84, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

123. She then addressed the current status of deposits and some elements of the practice of the Secretary-General as depositary, noting that the Secretariat expected a large number of deposits still to come, given that, for instance, only approximately 20 per cent of coastal States had deposited charts or lists of coordinates of the outer limits of their territorial sea. In that context, she put forward that it might be useful to assess which areas coastal States parties experienced challenges with in terms of implementing their deposit and due publicity obligations. That would enable States

parties to review the existing practice in the light of their needs related to deposits and their due publicity obligations under the Convention, as well as provide the Secretariat with additional guidance on how to address their needs in that regard. She noted that there was little guidance for coastal States regarding the depositary function of the Secretary-General and the obligation on States parties under the Convention, apart from the information in the General Assembly resolutions and on the website of the Division.

124. In the light of the above, the Meeting requested that the Secretariat prepare a note on the practice of the Secretary-General in respect of the deposit of charts and geographical coordinates under the Convention and pursuant to the relevant General Assembly resolutions, for submission to the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties, in 2020.
