



Meeting of States Parties

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Thirtieth Meeting

New York

Agenda item 10 (a)

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf:

information reported by the Chair of the Commission

Letter dated 13 April 2020 from the Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf addressed to the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties

Addendum

Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

I have the honour to refer to the addendum dated 10 July 2020 ([SPLOS/30/10/Add.2](#)) to my letter dated 13 April 2020 addressed to the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States parties ([SPLOS/30/10](#)), in which I informed States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that, inter alia, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf had decided to: (a) postpone the fifty-third session to yet-to-be-determined dates; and (b) continue to assess the feasibility of advancing its work by other means, should the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continue.

I also wish to recall that the Commission was scheduled to hold its fifty-fourth session, from 7 October to 24 November 2020, without plenary parts, for seven weeks of technical examinations of submissions.

Together with the Vice-Chairs of the Commission, I have continued to monitor the developments concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the holding of in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters. Given the ongoing limitations imposed by the pandemic on the work of intergovernmental and expert meetings as well as the restrictions on international travel, I wish to inform you that the Commission has decided not to hold its fifty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York as originally scheduled.

The Commission will continue, in consultation with the delegations of submitting States whose submissions are under active consideration, to assess the feasibility of advancing the work of the Commission and its subcommissions in the context of the postponed fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission by means other than in-person meetings. The majority of States have responded



favourably to conducting some form of remote work, but the lack of facilities for secure online deliberations and the inability to defray the costs related to online work by members from developing States, as specified in the note verbale dated 10 August 2020 from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat addressed to these States, remain significant encumbrances.

(*Signed*) Adnan Rashid Nasser **Al-Azri**
Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
