



Meeting of States Parties

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Thirty-first Meeting (resumed)

New York, 8 December 2021*

Election of one member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Vacancy in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. On 9 August 2021, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Secretary-General addressed a communication to the States parties to the Convention, in which he called for nominations with respect to one vacant seat allocated to members from the Latin American and Caribbean States in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

2. In the communication, the Secretary-General indicated that:

(a) On 23 July 2021, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, informing the Secretariat of the death of Jair Alberto Ribas Marques (Brazil);

(b) As a result of the vacancy resulting from the death of Mr. Marques, there was a need to resume the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties to hold a by-election.

II. By-elections

3. Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.5) provides that, if the office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant, the Meeting of States Parties shall, in accordance with rule 71, elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor's term. Rule 71 provides that the elections of the members of the Commission shall take place in accordance with article 76 and annex II to the Convention.

4. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that elections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a Meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters.

* Tentative date.



5. It is recalled that article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention provides that the members of the Commission shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

6. In his communication dated 9 August 2021, the Secretary-General informed the States parties that they would be notified in due course about the date of the resumed thirty-first Meeting.

7. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that not less than three members of the Commission shall be elected from each geographical region. In this regard, it is recalled that the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, held in June 2009, approved 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 (see [SPLOS/201](#) and [SPLOS/203](#), paras. 96–102). It is also recalled that, for the purpose of conducting the most recent election of 21 members of the Commission, held at the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties (12–16 June 2017), the arrangement for the allocation of seats contained in document [SPLOS/201](#) applied (see [SPLOS/316](#), para. 79).

8. As a result of the death of Mr. Marques (Brazil), one seat in the Commission that is allocated to the members of the Commission from Latin American and Caribbean States has become vacant.

9. Following the closure of the period of nominations on 11 November 2021, a list of candidates nominated by States parties will be prepared by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention, and made available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs.¹

III. Election procedures

10. In accordance with the practice of the Meeting of States Parties, the election will be held by secret ballot, subject to the agreement of the Meeting. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, two thirds of the States parties shall constitute a quorum for that Meeting.

11. Further information on the election procedures will be communicated to the States parties at a later date.

12. In accordance with rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties, the member of the Commission elected will serve for the remainder of the predecessor's term. Thus, the member elected to replace Mr. Marques will hold the office until 15 June 2023.

¹ See http://www.un.org/depts/los/meeting_states_parties/meeting_states_parties.htm.