



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Distr.: General
29 March 2019

Original: English

Forty-ninth session

New York, 28 January–15 March 2019

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 forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. In particular, the statement contains an overview of the progress made in the examination of the submissions made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean (partial revised submission); Brazil in respect of the Brazilian Southern Region (partial revised submission); Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land; France and South Africa, jointly, in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands; Kenya; Nigeria; France in respect of Reunion and the Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands; Côte d'Ivoire; Sri Lanka; Portugal; and Tonga in respect of the eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge. The statement also contains information about presentations made to the Commission regarding the submissions made by Benin and Togo, jointly, and by Liberia. In addition, the statement provides information on other issues covered by the Commission during the session, such as the conditions of service of its members.



1. Pursuant to the decision adopted at its forty-seventh session (CLCS/105, para. 88), as endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 103 of its resolution 73/124, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its forty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 January to 15 March 2019. The plenary parts of the session were held from 4 to 8 February and from 4 to 8 March 2019. The other parts of the session were devoted to the technical examination of submissions by the respective subcommissions and were held at the geographic information system laboratories of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.
2. The following members of the Commission attended the session: Adnan Rashid Nasser al-Azri, Lawrence Folajimi Awosika, Aldino Campos, Wanda-Lee De Landro-Clarke, Ivan F. Glumov, Martin Vang Heinesen, Emmanuel Kalngui, Mazlan bin Madon, Estevão Stefane Mahanjane, Jair Alberto Ribas Marques, 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 and communications:
 - (a) Provisional agenda (CLCS/L.46);
 - (b) Statements by the Chair on the progress of work in the Commission at its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions (CLCS/105 and CLCS/106);
 - (c) Submissions made by coastal States² pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
 - (d) General Assembly resolution 73/124 on oceans and the law of the sea;
 - (e) Relevant communications from States parties to the Convention and States Members of the United Nations, including from Benin (23 January 2019), Brazil (7 December 2018), France (16 January and 31 January 2019), Liberia (23 October 2018), the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, jointly (19 October 2018), Palau (1 February 2019) and Papua New Guinea (22 October 2018).

Item 1

Opening of the forty-ninth session

4. The Chair of the Commission, Mr. Park, opened the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel made a statement at the outset of the plenary session. He congratulated Mr. Tang on his election at the resumed twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on 15 January 2019 and expressed regret about the lack of nominations to fill the remaining vacancy on the Commission. The Under-Secretary-

¹ Mr. Awosika attended the session from 28 to 30 January, from 1 to 8 February and from 27 February to 15 March; Mr. Glumov attended the session from 28 January to 15 February and from 4 to 15 March; Mr. Kalngui attended the session from 28 January to 18 February, from 25 February to the morning of 27 February and from the afternoon of 1 March to 15 March; Mr. Marques was absent on 1 March; Mr. Mazurowski attended the session from 28 February onward; and Mr. Yamazaki attended the session until 8 March.

² For a full list of the submissions made to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm.

General also drew attention to past and future deliberations of States parties concerning the conditions of service of the members of the Commission, as well as their needs in case of medical emergencies, and to the related activities of its secretariat. In this connection, he also recalled the recent outcome of the deliberations of the General Assembly concerning medical insurance (Assembly resolution [73/124](#), para. 101). In closing, he reaffirmed the continued support of the Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, for the Commission.

Item 2

Solemn declaration by newly elected members of the Commission

6. Pursuant to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Commission ([CLCS/40/Rev.1](#)), Mr. Tang made a solemn declaration and delivered a signed copy thereof to the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, as representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 3

Adoption of the agenda

7. The Commission considered the provisional agenda ([CLCS/L.46](#)) and adopted it with amendments ([CLCS/107](#)).

Item 4

Organization of work

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

Item 5

Workload of the Commission and working conditions of members

9. The Commission acknowledged the continued attention given to the conditions of service of its members by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, including in the context of the Open-ended Working Group on the Conditions of Service of the Members of the Commission, by the General Assembly and by the Secretariat.

10. The Commission took note of a letter dated 26 November 2018 from the Chair of the Commission addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the States parties that had nominated the current members of the Commission, which drew their attention to the need to ensure that all members received comparable and reasonable treatment related to their duties with the Commission, including reasonable travel conditions and accommodation, full insurance coverage and defraying of all expenses related to the performance of their duties for the Commission.

11. The Commission noted with concern the health challenges faced by an unprecedented number of members of the Commission during the forty-ninth session. It also noted that the resulting absence of those members, together with the ongoing vacancy of one seat allocated to the Eastern European States, had tangible repercussions on the work of some subcommissions, which, as a result, at times lacked the two-thirds quorum required under the rules of procedure for the conduct of business.

12. Recalling the note verbale dated 22 August 2018 from the secretariat of the Commission addressed to the Permanent Missions of nominating States during the forty-seventh session, the Secretary of the Commission informed the Commission that only 16 nominating States had communicated details concerning a focal point whom the secretariat could contact for any urgent communications related to a medical emergency involving the respective members of the Commission. In this connection, he reiterated that the secretariat was ill equipped to deal with medical conditions manifesting themselves by a sudden onset of acute symptoms of sufficient severity to place a member's health in serious jeopardy in the absence of immediate medical attention. In such circumstances, the secretariat could only seek the assistance of emergency medical services, exposing the members concerned to potentially high medical costs.

13. During the session, the Coordinator of the Open-ended Working Group on the Conditions of Service of the Members of the Commission, Anastasia Strati, met with the Chair on 20 February³ and with the Chair and members of the Commission on 13 March, with a view to seeking their insight on their conditions of service. She also enquired about the implementation of the decision contained in paragraph 101 of General Assembly resolution 73/124, according to which the members of the Commission have the option to join the Headquarters medical insurance scheme upon payment of the full cost of the premium.

Item 6

Consideration of the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Arctic Ocean⁴

Report of the subcommission

14. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Madon, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 25 February to 1 March and from 11 to 15 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

15. The subcommission had held two meetings with the delegation, headed by the First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Denis G. Khramov. During the meetings, the subcommission had made a presentation on the progress of its work to date and posed questions for clarification. The delegation had made a presentation in response to some questions posed by the subcommission. The delegation had also indicated that, at the fiftieth session, it would provide additional data and information in response to a request for clarification made by the subcommission with regard to its presentation.

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

³ A letter dated 20 February 2019 from the Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf containing some preliminary observations on the measure adopted by the General Assembly concerning medical insurance (Assembly resolution 73/124, para. 101), and more generally on the conditions of service of the members of the Commission, was transmitted to the Coordinator of the Working Group by the Chair of the Commission at the meeting. The considerations presented in the letter will be reflected in the forthcoming letter from the Chair addressed to the President of the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to be issued as document [SPLOS/29/6](#).

⁴ Submission made on 3 August 2015; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_rus_rev1.htm.

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

17. 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 during the fiftieth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

18. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 1 to 12 July 2019.

Item 7

Consideration of the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian Southern Region⁵

Report of the subcommission

19. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Awosika, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 28 January to 1 February. During that period, it had continued to prepare its recommendations pursuant to paragraph 10 (5) of annex III to the rules of procedure. The subcommission had then finalized the draft recommendations, which had been approved by the subcommission and transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on 1 February.

Consideration of draft recommendations

20. On 6 February, the subcommission introduced to the Commission the draft recommendations with regard to the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian Southern Region, through a presentation delivered by Messrs. Awosika, Heinesen, Yamazaki and Yáñez.

21. On 7 February, the delegation of Brazil participated in the proceedings of the Commission and made a presentation pursuant to paragraph 15 (1 bis) of annex III to the rules of procedure. The presentation was made by the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations and head of the delegation, Mauro Vieira; and the Director of Hydrography and Navigation of the Brazilian Navy, Antonio Fernando Garcez Faria. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

22. In its presentation, the delegation expressed, among other things, its appreciation to the subcommission for its work. In addition to elaborating on scientific and technical matters relating to its partial revised submission, the delegation expressed its concurrence with the views and general conclusions of the subcommission arising from its examination of the submission.

Approval of recommendations

23. Having decided to proceed with the consideration of the draft recommendations presented by the subcommission, the Commission, following extensive deliberations, approved, without a vote, the recommendations with regard to the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian Southern Region on 10 April 2015, with amendments, on 8 March.

⁵ Submission made on 10 April 2015; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bra_rev.htm.

24. Pursuant to article 6, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, the recommendations, including a summary thereof, were submitted in writing to the coastal State and to the Secretary-General on 14 March.

Item 8

Consideration of the submission made by Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land⁶

Consideration of draft recommendations

25. The Commission resumed its consideration of the draft recommendations that had been presented to it by the subcommission at the forty-first session (CLCS/95, paras. 27–33), as well as at the forty-seventh session (CLCS/105, paras. 19–22).

Approval of recommendations

26. On 8 February, following extensive and substantial deliberations on the draft recommendations in the plenary, the Commission, proceeding on the basis of rule 38 (Method of voting) of its rules of procedure, approved, by 14 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions, the recommendations with regard to the submission made by Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land on 4 May 2009, with amendments. One member of the Commission expressed his regret that the Commission had not heeded his proposal for a secret ballot.

27. Pursuant to article 6, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, the recommendations, including a summary thereof, were submitted in writing to the coastal State and to the Secretary-General on 5 March.

Item 9

Consideration of the joint submission made by France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands⁷

28. The Commission appointed Mr. Tang as a member of the subcommission.

Report of the subcommission

29. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Njuguna, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 28 January to 1 February. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

30. No meetings had been held with the joint delegation of France and South Africa. The subcommission had considered the preliminary response communicated in writing by the joint delegation with regard to the document transmitted by the subcommission at the end of the forty-eighth session.

31. The Chair of the subcommission also reported on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

⁶ Submission made on 4 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_nor_30_2009.htm.

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

32. The subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fiftieth session, which would include meetings with the joint delegation.

33. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 5 to 9 August 2019.

Item 10

Consideration of the submission made by Kenya⁸

Report of the subcommission

34. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Heinesen, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 11 to 22 February. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission. The delegation had submitted additional data and information in partial response to the observations and comments of the subcommission at the forty-eighth session.

35. No meetings had been held with the delegation. At the end of the session, the subcommission had transmitted additional observations and comments based on its examination of the data and information submitted to date.

36. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

37. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to consider the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fiftieth session, which would include meetings with the delegation.

38. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 15 to 26 July 2019.

Item 11

Consideration of the submission made by Nigeria⁹

39. The Commission appointed Mr. Tang as a member of the subcommission.

Report of the subcommission

40. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 25 February to 1 March and from 11 to 15 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission. No meetings had been held with the delegation during the session.

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

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

⁹ Submission made on 7 May 2009; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_nga_38_2009.htm.

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

42. 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 fiftieth session.

43. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 1 to 12 July 2019.

Item 12

Consideration of the submission made by France in respect of Reunion and the Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands¹⁰

Report of the subcommission

44. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mosher, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 25 February to 1 March and from 11 to 15 March. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission.

45. The subcommission had held three meetings with the delegation, during which the delegation had given two presentations in response to the observations and requests for information made by the subcommission. The subcommission had given a presentation on the progress of its consideration of the submission.

46. The Chair of the subcommission also reported on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

47. The Chair reported that the delegation had indicated that deliberations on outstanding issues were reaching an advanced stage. In that context, in accordance with the preference of the delegation, at the end of the session the subcommission had provided the presentation envisioned under paragraph 10 (3) of annex III to the rules of procedure in written form. The Chair further reported that the delegation intended to provide in writing the response envisioned under paragraph 10 (4) in advance of the fiftieth session.

48. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fiftieth session.

49. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 1 to 12 July 2019.

Item 13

Consideration of the submission made by Côte d'Ivoire¹¹

Report of the subcommission

50. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Mahanjane, reported on the progress of its work, noting that it had met from 11 to 22 February. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission, in

¹⁰ Submission made on 8 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_fra_40_2009.htm.

¹¹ Submission made on 8 May 2009 and amended on 24 March 2016; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_civ_42_2009.htm.

particular the additional data and information submitted by the delegation in response to the requests for clarification and preliminary views transmitted by the subcommission at the forty-eighth session.

51. The subcommission had held three meetings with the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, during which it had made a 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 had made a presentation to the subcommission pursuant to paragraph 10 (4) of annex III.

52. Pursuant to paragraph 10 (5) of annex III to the rules of procedure, the subcommission finalized the draft recommendations, which were approved and transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on 1 March 2019. Subsequently, in the context of the report of the Chair of the subcommission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

Item 14

Consideration of the submission made by Sri Lanka¹²

53. Initially, the Commission had appointed Mr. Tang as a member of the subcommission. Later, however, the Commission appointed Mr. Yamazaki in his stead so as to allow Mr. Tang to serve as a member of a newly established subcommission (see para. 80).

Report of the subcommission

54. The Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Yáñez, reported on the progress of its work, noting that it had met from 11 to 22 February, during which time it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission. In particular, the subcommission had focused on the data and information provided by the delegation during the session in partial response to the requests for clarification made by the subcommission during the forty-eighth session.

55. While no meetings had been held with the delegation, the subcommission had interacted with it in a videoconference call with a view to obtaining some clarification. At the end of the session, the subcommission had transmitted its observations and comments based on its examination of the data and information submitted during the session.

56. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

57. 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 fiftieth session, including in meetings with the delegation.

58. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 15 to 26 July 2019.

¹² Submission made on 8 May 2009; available at www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_lka_43_2009.htm.

Item 15

Consideration of the submission made by Portugal¹³

Report of the subcommission

59. The Chair of the subcommission, Ms. De Landro-Clarke, reported on the progress of its work, noting that the subcommission had met from 28 January to 1 February. During that period, it had continued the main scientific and technical examination of the submission. The delegation had submitted additional data and information during the intersessional period in response to the requests for clarification and preliminary views transmitted by the subcommission at the forty-eighth session.

60. Two meetings had been held with the delegation, during which the delegation had presented its responses to the additional requests for clarification and the preliminary views of the subcommission. The subcommission had then transmitted a communication to the delegation with its views and preliminary conclusions relating to some aspects of the submission.

61. The Chair of the subcommission also reported to the Commission on certain substantive matters concerning the submission. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Commission provided feedback and the subcommission responded to questions.

62. The subcommission decided that its members would continue to consider the submission during the intersessional period and that it would resume its consideration of the submission during the fiftieth session, including in meetings with the delegation.

63. It was decided that the meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session would be held from 5 to 9 August 2019.

Item 16

Consideration of the submission made by Tonga in respect of the eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge¹⁴

Consideration of draft recommendations

64. On 5 March, the Commission commenced consideration of the draft recommendations prepared by the subcommission (CLCS/106, para. 44) by receiving a presentation delivered by the Chair of the subcommission, Mr. Campos, introducing the draft recommendations with regard to the partial submission made by Tonga in respect of the eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge.

65. On the same day, the delegation of Tonga participated in the proceedings of the Commission, making a presentation pursuant to paragraph 15 (1 bis) of annex III to the rules of procedure. The presentation was made by the head of the delegation, Princess Angelika Lātūfuipeka Halaevalu Mata'aho Tuku'aho; the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forests and Fisheries, Semisi Taelangi Fakahau; the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mahe 'Uli'uli Sandhurst Tupouniua; the Permanent Representative of Tonga to the United Nations, Viliami Va'inga Tōnē; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Tonga to the United Nations, Tevita Suka Mangisi; the

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_ton_46_2009.htm.

Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Taaniela Kula; the Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Tonga to the United Nations, Darlene Vaea; and the Solicitor General, Sione Sisifa. The delegation also included an adviser.

66. In its presentation, the delegation expressed its appreciation to the subcommission for its work and underscored the challenges that making a submission to the Commission posed to small island developing States. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, the delegation expressed its concurrence with the views and general conclusions of the subcommission arising from its examination of the submission.

67. The Commission then continued its deliberations in private. Owing to the limited time available, the Commission was not in a position to complete the consideration of draft recommendations at the present session and decided to defer it to the fiftieth session.

Item 17

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

Joint submission of Benin and Togo¹⁵

68. The joint submission made by Benin and Togo was presented on 7 February by the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations, Jean-Claude Félix do Rego; the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations, Kokou Kpayedo; the Director General of the Benin Agency for the Integrated Management of Border Spaces and head of the delegation of Benin, Ayité Marcel Baglo; the Maritime Prefect of Togo, Néyo Takougnadi; and an adviser, Lindsay Murray Parson. The delegation also included the Adviser to the President and head of the delegation of Togo, Stanislas Baba, and a number of advisers.

69. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the joint submission, Mr. do Rego informed the Commission that no current member of the Commission had assisted Benin and Togo by providing scientific and technical advice.

70. Mr. do Rego also stated that no disputes existed in respect of the area included in the joint submission, recalling that no communications from other States in relation to the joint submission had been received.

71. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission, the Commission noted that no communications had been received from other States. The Commission took note of the views expressed in the presentation by the joint delegation. It decided that, as provided for in article 5 of annex II to the Convention and in rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the joint submission would be addressed by a subcommission to be established at a future session in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 4 ter, of the rules of procedure. The Commission also decided to revert to the consideration of the submission, as well as any notes verbales that might be received in the future, at the plenary level when the submission was next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it was received.

¹⁵ Submission made on 21 September 2018; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bentgo_80_2018.htm.

Submission made by Liberia¹⁶

72. The presentation of the submission of Liberia was made on 8 March by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of the delegation, Gbehzongar Milton Findley; the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr.; the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Oil Company, Saifuah-Mai Gray; the Manager of Engineering and Production at the National Oil Company, Timothy K. Jarry II; and the Principal Director for Administration and Legal Affairs of the Liberia Maritime Authority, Nya S. Gbaintor. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

73. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, Ms. Gray informed the Commission that the submission was not the subject of any disputes with any other State.

74. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. It was noted that, according to the executive summary of the submission, no current member of the Commission had assisted Liberia by providing scientific and technical advice.

75. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission, the Commission decided that, as provided for in article 5 of annex II to the Convention and in rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the submission would be addressed by a subcommission to be established at a future session in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 4 ter, of the rules of procedure. The Commission also decided to revert to the consideration of the submission, as well as any notes verbales that might be received in the future, at the plenary level, when the submission was next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it was received.

Item 18**Report of the Chair of the Committee on Confidentiality****Report of the Chair of the Committee**

76. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mahanjane, reported that no meetings of the Committee had been required during the current session.

Item 19**Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee****Report of the Chair of the Committee**

77. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Madon, reported that no meetings of the Committee had been required during the current session, as no request had been received from any State.

Item 20**Other matters****Establishment of subcommissions**

78. In the light of the progress in its work (see paras. 19 and 52), and in accordance with its practice, the Commission reviewed the submissions that were next in line as

¹⁶ Submission made on 23 October 2018; available at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_lib_81_2018.htm.

queued in the order in which they had been received, recalling the decision taken at its twenty-sixth session whereby revised submissions would be considered on a priority basis notwithstanding the queue (CLCS/68 and CLCS/68/Corr.1, para. 57), namely the submissions made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin (partial revised submission); Myanmar; Yemen in respect of south-east of Socotra Island; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the Hatton-Rockall area; Ireland in respect of the Hatton-Rockall area; Fiji; Malaysia and Viet Nam, jointly, in respect of the southern part of the South China Sea; and Viet Nam in respect of the North Area. With the exception of the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin, the Commission noted that it was not in a position to proceed with the consideration of any of those submissions, as no communication that would have enabled the Commission to do so had been received. The Commission decided that it would review the situation again at the time of the establishment of a new subcommission.

79. As for the partial revised submission made by Brazil in respect of the Brazilian equatorial margin, the Commission recalled its decision taken at the forty-sixth session (CLCS/103, para. 65) that the submission would be considered by the subcommission established to consider the submission of Brazil after it had completed its examination of the partial revised submission in respect of the Brazilian Southern Region. It is recalled that the composition of that subcommission is as follows: Messrs. Awosika (Chair), Heinesen (Vice-Chair), Moreira, Park (Vice-Chair), Yamazaki and Yáñez, with a seventh member to be appointed at a later stage (CLCS/100, para. 10 (b)). The meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session will be held from 5 to 9 August 2019.

80. Moving on to the next submission in the queue, namely the partial amended submission made by Palau in respect of the North Area, the Commission recalled its decision taken at the forty-sixth session (CLCS/103, para. 69) that it would proceed with the examination of the partial amended submission in respect of the North Area by way of a subcommission to be established at a future session. The Commission therefore appointed Messrs. Al-Azri, Mahanjane, Mosher, Njuguna, Paterlini and Tang as members of the new subcommission and decided that the seventh member of the subcommission would be appointed at a subsequent stage. The subcommission held an organizational meeting and elected Mr. Paterlini as Chair and Messrs. Al-Azri and Tang as Vice-Chairs. The meetings of the subcommission during the fiftieth session will be held from 15 to 26 July 2019.

Trust funds

81. The Commission was informed by its secretariat about the status of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of the participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in its meetings. Since the previous session, contributions had been received from Canada, Ireland, Norway and Portugal. As at 6 March 2019, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$224,000.

82. The secretariat noted that the funding requirements for the forty-eighth session, held in October and November 2018, had been estimated at \$150,000. For the current session, financial assistance had been provided to seven Commission members nominated by developing States, at an estimated total cost of \$140,000.

83. Pursuant to paragraph 99 of General Assembly resolution 72/73, following the allocation of the required funds to cover the costs of travel and the daily subsistence allowance of the members of the Commission from developing States for the sessions of the Commission in 2018, the trust fund was able to reimburse those members for the costs of medical travel insurance on a session-by-session basis.

84. Given the current balance of the trust fund, however, additional contributions would be required to cover expected funding requirements for the fifty-first session, which will be held from 14 October to 29 November 2019. In addition, at that stage, it was not possible to reimburse travel medical insurance costs from the trust fund. Consequently, the secretariat highlighted a critical need for contributions to the trust fund in order to ensure its continued operation throughout 2019 and undertook to bring the critical need for additional contributions to the attention of States.

85. With regard to the trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the secretariat reported that, as at 6 March 2019, the trust fund had an approximate balance of \$947,000. Two applications for assistance with the preparation of a submission to the Commission, one made jointly by Benin and Togo and the other by Liberia, had been approved. The secretariat also informed the Commission that two additional applications, submitted by Bangladesh and the Cook Islands, had been examined by an independent panel of experts comprising the Chairs of regional groups during the month of February 2019, and decisions in those two cases were expected shortly. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Togo and Tonga had received assistance from the trust fund to participate in meetings held with the Commission or the relevant subcommissions during the present session of the Commission.
