



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

VICE-PRESIDENT CHADHA REVIEWS TRIBUNAL'S JUDICIAL WORK IN THE TRIBUNAL'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Judge Neeru Chadha, Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, addressed the plenary of the seventy-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly yesterday during its consideration of agenda item 75(a) "Oceans and the law of the sea".



UN Photo/Evan Schneider

On behalf of President Tomas Heidar, the Vice-President updated delegates on the judicial activity of the Tribunal, looking first at the Advisory Opinion delivered by the Tribunal on 21 May 2024 in the *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*. Vice-President Chadha informed delegates that this was the first time that an international judicial body had identified States Parties' obligations to combat climate change within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Recalling the key legal findings of the Advisory Opinion, she noted that "[a]lthough still fairly recent, the Advisory Opinion of the Tribunal has already been hailed as a landmark ruling that will serve to strengthen States Parties' obligations to prevent, reduce and control

marine pollution from anthropogenic GHG emissions and to protect and preserve the marine environment from climate change and ocean acidification.”

The Vice-President then addressed the latest developments in the two cases currently on the Tribunal’s docket. She first referred to *The M/T “Heroic Idun” (No. 2) Case (Marshall Islands/Equatorial Guinea)*, currently in the written phase, which will be heard by a special chamber of the Tribunal composed of five members. The Vice-President also mentioned *The “Zheng He” Case (Luxembourg v. Mexico)* which, following the Tribunal’s Order of 27 July 2024 pertaining to Luxembourg’s request for the prescription of provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the Convention, is also in the written phase.

Vice-President Chadha reminded delegates that alongside its judicial work, the Tribunal is also active in the field of capacity-building aimed at promoting and disseminating knowledge about the Convention and in particular the dispute settlement procedures enshrined in its Part XV. She highlighted the third ITLOS Workshop for Legal Advisers (sponsored by the Republic of Korea), designed this year for legal advisers of Latin American and Caribbean States, and mentioned the Tribunal’s Nippon fellowship programme, internship programme and the IFLOS Summer Academy, thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the Korea Maritime Institute for their continued commitment to the Tribunal’s capacity-building programmes.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal’s website (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter or Mr Robert Steenkamp at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org