



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

# **Press Release**

## **THE TRIBUNAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION CO-HOST A WORKSHOP ON THE ARREST OF VESSELS AND FLAG STATE RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING REGISTRATION**

Today, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) co-hosted a workshop at the IMO headquarters in London on the arrest of vessels and flag State responsibilities regarding ship registration. The workshop was attended by delegates of IMO Member States present for the latest session of the Legal Committee. After the opening remarks of the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr Arsenio Dominguez, President Tomas Heidar gave a keynote speech on the Tribunal's Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and the Ocean. The workshop closed with a reception sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Noting that the workshop provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Tribunal to engage with IMO delegates on important matters relating to the arrest and registration of vessels, President Heidar underscored the point that “[t]hese issues have been central to cases before the Tribunal and are of significant importance to the work of the IMO. Their continued examination and understanding are vital for ensuring legal certainty, strengthening ocean governance, and supporting the sustainable and efficient management of international shipping.”

In his opening remarks, Secretary-General Dominguez noted that “there are clear linkages between the judicial work of ITLOS on maritime matters and the work of IMO. A recent example is the submission provided by IMO towards the development of the ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and the Ocean”.

Judge Lijnzaad and Registrar Hinrichs Oyarce participated in the first panel on the “Arrest of vessels: Key aspects of ITLOS case law and procedure”, discussing the topics of “The right of the flag State to make claims in respect of arrested vessels: the concept of the ‘ship as a unit’” and “Procedural aspects: provisional measures and prompt release of vessels and crews”, respectively. This was followed by a panel on “Registration of vessels”, moderated by Judge Attard, on which Judge Caracciolo spoke about “Nationality and registration of ships”. Other presentations examined fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships and due diligence in ship registration.

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