



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

# **Press Release**

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF STATES SPONSORING PERSONS  
AND ENTITIES WITH RESPECT TO ACTIVITIES IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AREA**

**(REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION  
SUBMITTED TO THE SEABED DISPUTES CHAMBER)**

**TIME-LIMITS SET FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS**

**HEARING TO OPEN ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Hamburg, 19 May 2010. On 18 May 2010, the President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Judge Tullio Treves, adopted an Order regarding the conduct of Case No. 17, which relates to a Request for an Advisory Opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the International Seabed Area. The Request was submitted to the Chamber by the Council of the International Seabed Authority and filed in the Registry of the Tribunal on 14 May 2010 (see Press Release 147).

In the Order, the President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber decided that the International Seabed Authority and those organizations invited as intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers in the Assembly of the Authority are considered likely to be able to furnish information on the questions submitted to the Seabed Disputes Chamber and invited them and the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to present written statements on the questions contained in the Request, fixing 9 August 2010 as the time-limit for the presentation of such written statements.

The President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber also fixed 14 September 2010 as the date for the opening of the hearing at which oral statements may be submitted to the Seabed Disputes Chamber by the States Parties to the Convention, the International Seabed Authority and the intergovernmental organizations referred to above. They are invited to indicate their intention to make oral statements at the hearing to the Registrar no later than 3 September 2010.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

The text of the Order is available on the website of the Tribunal.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites: <http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany,  
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