



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

# Press Release

## TRIBUNAL AMENDS RULES TO PROVIDE FOR HEARINGS AND MEETINGS BY VIDEO LINK

On 25 September 2020, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea amended its Rules in order to provide that the Tribunal may decide, as an exceptional measure, for public health, security or other compelling reasons, to hold hearings and meetings entirely or in part by video link.

Accordingly, the Tribunal amended the following rules dealing with hearings and meetings: article 41 (meetings of the Tribunal), new paragraph 7; article 74 (hearings), new paragraph 2 (the previous article 74 has been renumbered as article 74, paragraph 1); article 112, new paragraph 5 (reading of prompt release judgment); article 124 (reading of judgment), paragraph 3; and article 135, new paragraph 1 *bis* (reading of advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber).

The amended provisions read as follows:

### **Article 41, new paragraph 7, of the Rules of the Tribunal**

“7. Upon consultations with the Members of the Tribunal, the President may decide, as an exceptional measure, for public health, security or other compelling reasons, to hold meetings entirely or in part by video link.”

### **Article 74, new paragraph 2, of the Rules of the Tribunal**

“2. The Tribunal may decide, as an exceptional measure, for public health, security or other compelling reasons, to hold a hearing entirely or in part by video link.”

### **Article 112, new paragraph 5, of the Rules of the Tribunal**

“5. The Tribunal may decide, as an exceptional measure, for public health, security or other compelling reasons, that the judgment shall be read at a sitting of the Tribunal accessible to the parties and the public by video link.”

### **Article 124, new paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal**

“3. The Tribunal may decide, as an exceptional measure, for public health, security or other compelling reasons, that the judgment shall be read at a sitting of the Tribunal accessible to the parties and the public by video link.”

**Article 135, new paragraph 1 *bis*, of the Rules of the Tribunal**

“1 *bis*. The Chamber may decide, as an exceptional measure, for public health, security or other compelling reasons, that the advisory opinion shall be read at a sitting of the Chamber accessible to the parties and the public by video link.”

The Tribunal decided that the amendments would enter into force forthwith.

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 websites (<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](mailto:press@itlos.org)