



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

Press Release

PRESIDENT HEIDAR REPORTS TO THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

Judge Tomas Heidar, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, today addressed the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea presenting the Tribunal's annual report for 2024 and informing delegates of the ongoing judicial work of the Tribunal.

With respect to the Tribunal's judicial work, the President referred to two pending cases: *The M/T "Heroic Idun" (No. 2) Case* between the Marshall Islands and Equatorial Guinea, which has been submitted to a special chamber of the Tribunal; and *The "Zheng He" Case*, which concerns the detention of a dredger flying the flag of Luxembourg by the Mexican authorities in the Port of Tampico, Mexico. In respect of the latter case, President Heidar stated that, on 7 June 2024, Luxembourg had submitted a request for the Tribunal to prescribe provisional measures, including measures "to preserve the fundamental rights and freedoms of the crew" and "to safeguard the rights of Luxembourg as the flag State". He then noted that, by Order of 27 July 2024, the Tribunal decided that the circumstances, as they presented themselves to it, were not such as to require the exercise of its powers to prescribe provisional measures. The merits of the two cases remain pending before the Tribunal, with the hearing in *The M/T "Heroic Idun" (No. 2) Case* to be held in October 2025.

The President then drew the delegates' attention to the Advisory Opinion adopted by the Tribunal on 21 May 2024 on the *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*. The President noted the positive reception of the Advisory Opinion by the international community, expressing his view that it has reaffirmed the status of the Convention as a living instrument, capable of addressing and adapting to contemporary challenges to the law of the sea, and also demonstrated the Tribunal's ability to handle complex and novel legal questions thoroughly and cogently, and in an efficient manner.

With respect to the administrative work of the Tribunal, President Heidar noted the re-election by the judges both of the Registrar, Ms Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce, in September 2024 and of the Deputy Registrar, Mr Antoine Ollivier, in April 2025, each for a term of five years.

Closing his statement, President Heidar considered the various capacity-building programmes in which the Tribunal is engaged, from the internship and

fellowship programmes to the series of regional and Legal Advisers workshops, as well as the IFLOS Summer Academy and the Junior Professional Officer programme. He provided information on the recent regional workshop held in May in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, and the upcoming Legal Advisers workshop for African States to be held at the Tribunal in September. The President expressed his gratitude to the Governments of China, of the Republic of Korea, and of Viet Nam, to the Korea Maritime Institute, the Nippon Foundation, and the China Institute of International Studies for their support of the respective programmes. The President reiterated his gratitude for the excellent cooperation the Tribunal enjoys with the United Nations Secretary-General, the Legal Counsel and the Director and staff of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

The President's statement may be found on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.

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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; E-mail: press@itlos.org