



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

Press Release

**PRESIDENT NELSON WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA**

The ceremony to mark the establishment of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea took place today in Hamburg, 21 years to the day of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law for the Sea. The Foundation has been established upon the joint initiative of representatives of trade and industry, the academic world and public institutions, as well as with the support of the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

On this occasion the President of the Tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson, welcomed the establishment of the Foundation and expressed his desire for future cooperation between the Tribunal and the Foundation.

The President noted in particular that the Foundation has been established with the mission of promoting the Tribunal and assisting in the further implementation of the Convention. Such purpose is well stated in the relevant part of the Preamble and article 2 of the Statute of the Foundation. The Preamble declares that "It is in the interest of all national and international institutions concerned with the use of the seas and of the maritime economy to publicize and promote internationally the opportunities afforded by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the peaceful settlement of law of the sea disputes".

The Preamble also lists the principal tasks of the Foundation as the sustained promotion of research and teaching, events and publications and the provision of training opportunities at the seat of the Tribunal.

Article 2 of the Statute states that the purpose of the Foundation is the promotion of learning and research in the field of international law of the sea/maritime law, with particular reference to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This is to be achieved through the organization of symposia, seminars, workshops and lectures, in order to bring together experts from all over the world who are interested in topics of international law of the sea/maritime law; the promotion of cooperation between national and international institutions operating in the field of international law of the sea/maritime law; and the publication and dissemination on a

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worldwide basis of results of the above-mentioned activities. The possibility of providing appropriate grants and training for interns, particularly from developing countries, is also set forth in the Statute.

In his speech, the President also emphasized the importance of the Foundation's activities on the international level, in particular the Foundation's aims to support less developed States in exercising their rights and complying with their obligations arising from the Convention.

Today's inaugural ceremony was opened by Mr Rainer Schöndube, of Germanischer Lloyd AG, on behalf of the members of the founding committee. He noted that the peaceful settlement of disputes was of particular importance to the maritime sector and underlined the goals of the Foundation to support the work of the Tribunal and to develop opportunities for discussion platforms on law of the sea. The Statute of the Foundation was signed by the five founding donors.

Information about the Foundation may be found on its website at <http://www.iflos.org>.

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 Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245;
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