



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

## **Press Release**

### **SIGNATURE OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

On 14 December 2004, the Agreement between the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the Headquarters of the Tribunal was signed by the President of the Tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson and by Mr Jürgen Chrobog, State Secretary of the Foreign Office at a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin.

On this occasion, President Nelson expressed his gratitude for the excellent cooperation extended to the Tribunal in this matter since the negotiations began. Prior to the ceremony, the President met with the Federal Minister of Justice, Mrs Brigitte Zypries. He also met with Mr Rainer Funke and Dr Christoph Zöpel, Members of Parliament, and attended a luncheon hosted by the Legal Adviser and Director-General for Legal Affairs, Mr Thomas Läufer.

The Headquarters Agreement defines the legal status of the Tribunal in Germany and regulates the relations between the Tribunal and the host country. The Agreement recalls in its Preamble that "the Tribunal should enjoy such legal capacity, privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of its functions". It contains provisions on matters such as the law applicable to the headquarters district, the immunity of the Tribunal, its property, assets and funds, and the privileges, immunities and exemptions to be accorded to the Members of the Tribunal and its officials, as well as to Agents representing parties, counsel and advocates and witnesses and experts who are required to appear before the Tribunal.

The Agreement will enter into force on the first day of the month following the date of receipt of the last of the notifications by which the Tribunal and the Federal Republic of Germany have informed each other of the completion of their respective formal requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement. Until the entry into force of the Agreement the relations with the host country are based on the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, as applied by the host country in accordance with its Ordinance on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 10 October 1996.

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

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**For information media - not an official record  
also available at <http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>**

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