



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

## **Press Release**

### **ELECTION OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL DURING THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

Seven Members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea have been elected at the twenty-first Meeting of the 162 States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in session at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The judges were elected for a term of nine years commencing on 1 October 2011.

Among those seven Members, Judge Cot (France), Judge Gao (China), Judge Lucky (Trinidad and Tobago) and Judge Ndiaye (Senegal) were reelected and Mr Attard (Malta), Ms Kelly (Argentina) and Mr Kulyk (Ukraine) were newly elected by the States Parties. The biographies of the re-elected judges are available on the website of the Tribunal and those of Mr Attard, Ms Kelly and Mr Kulyk may be found in document SPLOS/221, which is available on the [website](#) of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations.

Elections for the judges of the Tribunal are held every three years at the Meeting of States Parties. The judges are elected by the States Parties to the Convention by secret ballot for a term of nine years and may be re-elected. In accordance with article 2 of the Tribunal's Statute, each State Party may nominate up to two candidates from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.

The Statute also requires that equitable geographical distribution be assured among the Members and that the principal legal systems of the world be represented. It further stipulates that there should be at least three Judges from each geographical group as established by the General Assembly of the United Nations and that no two judges may be of the same nationality. The persons elected shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the States Parties present and voting, provided that such majority includes a majority of the States Parties.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents.  
They 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 Ms Johanna van Kisfeld 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)