



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

Press Release

(Issued by the Registry)

SWEARING IN OF JUDGE JOSE LUIS JESUS

HAMBURG, 1 October. A brief public sitting of the Tribunal was held today at 10.00 a.m. to swear in Judge José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde). Judge Jesus was elected by the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 24 May 1999, when elections were held to fill the places of the seven Judges whose terms of office were to expire on 30 September 1999 (See Press Release No. 22). The sitting was held in the courtroom at the temporary premises in the centre of Hamburg.

Before taking up duties, a newly-elected Judge has to make the solemn declaration to exercise the powers as Judge impartially and conscientiously. This declaration has to be made at a public sitting of the Tribunal. Today's public sitting was convened for that purpose. The declaration was made in the presence of all 21 Judges and the Registrar of the Tribunal. The meeting was presided over by Judge Thomas A. Mensah.

The Judges of the Tribunal are elected for nine years and may be re-elected. However, at the first elections a system of rotation was established whereby the term of office of one-third of the 21 Judges expires every three years. The first election of the Tribunal was held on 1 August 1996; the first triennial election on 24 May 1999.

Judge José Luis Jesus

Born: Cape Verde, 20 September 1950. **Education:** Law Degree, School of Law, Classical University of Lisbon, Portugal; International Law Certificate, Saint John's University, New York; M.A., Government and Politics, Saint John's University, New York. **Professional Experience:** Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Central Africa; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Ambassador of Cape Verde to the UN; Ambassador of Cape Verde to Portugal, Spain and Israel; Legal Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Cape Verde to the UN; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communities. **Member:** Head of Cape Verde delegation to the Third UN Conference on the

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For information media - not an official record - also available at <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/>

**Press Release ITLOS/Press 29
1 October 1999**

Law of the Sea (1979–1982); Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly (1979–1994); Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Head of delegation 1983–1994, Chairman 1987–1995); Chairman, Group of 77 for the Law of the Sea (1986); Chairman, Group of African States at the UN (1986); Head of the Cape Verde delegation to UN Conference on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, Vienna (1986); Panel on Law of the Sea, Peace in Maribus Conference, Malta (1987); Panellist on Seabed Minerals, American Society of International Law, Washington (1988); Chairman, Ad Hoc Security Council Committee on Angola (1992); President, UN Security Council (July, 1992 and November, 1993); Chairman of panel on Law of the Sea, Qatar (1994); Chairman of the National Commission on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, Cape Verde; Cape Verde Bar Association; American Society of International Law. **Publications:** *The practice of African States in the field of the Law of the Sea*, 1990; *The Work of the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention*, 1990; *The Universality of the Law of the Sea Convention*, 1990; *Deep Seabed Mining: The Work of the Preparatory Commission*, 1998; *Recent Developments in the Law of the Sea and the accomplishments of the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*, 1993.

The curricula vitae of the other 20 elected Judges can be found in document SPLOS/11. Abbreviated biographies of the Judges may also be obtained from the Registry of the Tribunal.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal, Wexstrasse 4, 20355 Hamburg, Germany, Tel: (49) (40) 35607-227/228, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275 or United Nations DC-1, suite 1140, New York, NY 10017, Tel: (1) (212) 963-6480, Fax: (1) (212) 963-0908, E-mail: itlos@itlos.hamburg.de

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