

President of ITLOS Reports to the Meeting of States Parties

The President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Judge Valdimir Golitsyn, addressed the 26th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on 20 June 2016, and presented the Tribunal's annual report for 2015.

In his statement, the President outlined the increase in the Tribunal's judicial activity and the variety of decisions rendered by the Tribunal in 2015. He was confident that future cases would continue to involve a broad spectrum of law of the sea matters.

The President reported on the Tribunal's Advisory Opinion on the request submitted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) concerning illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) activities in the exclusive economic zones of SRFC Member States. He emphasized the input to the progressive development of the law of the sea made by the Tribunal in its Advisory Opinion, noting that it clarified several matters regarding the obligations and liability of both flag States and international organizations in relation to IUU fishing in the exclusive economic zones of SRFC Member States.

The President also informed the delegates of the other three ongoing cases between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire concerning their maritime boundary; the case between India and Italy with regard to the "Enrica Lexie" incident and a case initiated by Panama against Italy regarding the arrest and detention of the vessel M/V "Norstar".

The President also informed the Meeting that as the ITLOS would celebrate its 20th Anniversary this year, the event would be marked by a series of events being organized to that end, commencing with a round table on "The Role of the Tribunal in the Settlement of Disputes" to take place during the Meeting of States Parties. Subsequently, events would be organized in Hamburg on 5 and 6 October 2016 with a symposium on "The Contribution of the Tribunal to the Rule of Law", to be held at the Tribunal's premises. The celebrations would culminate in an official ceremony on 7 October 2016, in the City Hall of Hamburg. Keynote speakers at this event would be the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany.