

Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Information for participants

Twenty-sixth meeting
New York, 20 to 24 June 2016
Conference Room 1 (CB)

Background

The twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be held in New York from 20 to 24 June 2016 (see paragraph 48 of General Assembly resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015).

President

In accordance with Rule 19 (Election of officers) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.4), "[t]he Meeting of States Parties shall elect from among the representatives of States Parties participating in the Meeting the following officers: a President and four Vice-Presidents, one from each region, excluding the region of the President...".

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth meeting is contained in document SPLOS/L.77 available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<https://documents.un.org/> or www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=SPLOS/L.77).

Credentials

The original credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers who will form part of the delegations of States Parties should be transmitted to the secretariat (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, Room DC2-0450, United Nations, New York, NY 10017), duly signed, in accordance with rule 13 (2) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties, by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any person authorized by either of them.

In conformity with the understanding reached by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties (see SPLOS/263, paragraph 101), it is expected that the credentials would be valid for the period from Monday, 20, to Friday, 24 June 2016 and, to the extent practicable, also thereafter until the convening of the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties.

Observers

Observers are requested to transmit to the Division (Room DC2-0450, United Nations, New York, NY 10017) the names of the representatives who will form part of the observer delegation.

Reports of the Secretary-General

The following reporting material referred to in the agenda of the Meeting is posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/twentsixthmeetingstatesparties.htm):

- The report of the Secretary-General under article 319 for the information of States parties on issues of a general nature, relevant to States parties, which have arisen with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (A/70/74/Add.1); and
- The report of the Secretary-General on the topic of focus of the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, "Marine debris, plastics and microplastics." (A/71/74).

Secretariat

The Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, carries out the secretariat functions for the Meeting of States Parties (for information: doalos@un.org).

Side events

Expressions of interest to hold side events during the Meeting of States Parties must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat, no later than **14 June 2016**, with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred date for the event to the following email address: doalos@un.org. The subject of the message should specify the following: "Side event: Meeting of States Parties."

UN Grounds Passes for Intergovernmental organizations

Representatives from intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the Meeting of States Parties should communicate their intention to attend the meeting directly to the Protocol and Liaison Service by **14 June 2016**, with a copy to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, requesting the issuance of grounds passes, which allow access to the United Nations premises where the Meeting of States Parties is held. A template letter for this purpose is provided below. The representatives of intergovernmental organizations having a Liaison Office in New York should endeavour to obtain their United Nations grounds pass through that Office.

Intergovernmental organizations without an office in New York must submit a form SG.6 for each member of the delegation for issuance of grounds passes for temporary meetings, together with an official nomination letter (stamped and signed by the head of the organization)

to the Protocol and Liaison Service, at least one week in advance of the Meeting. The official letter must also include a name and email address of a focal point to receive the accreditation approval. The form SG.6 can be downloaded from the website of the Protocol and Liaison Service at <https://www.un.int/protocol/protocol/forms-and-checklists>.

Upon presentation of the accreditation approvals, representatives of intergovernmental organizations must pick-up their United Nations grounds passes directly from the United Nations Pass Office at 320 East 45th Street prior to attending the Meeting. An official document with photograph (e.g., passport) identifying the representative must be presented at that time.

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**Template of letter to the United Nations Protocol  
and Liaison Service**

**[Letterhead of the Organization]**

[Date]

Dear Mr. Van Laere,

Pursuant to paragraph 48 of General Assembly resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015 and further to the letter of invitation dated [Date], which was sent by the Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations, we hereby inform you that the [official name of the organization] wishes to attend the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which will take place in New York from 20 to 24 June 2016

The [official name of the organization] will be represented by Mr. / Ms. [full name of the representative, which should be consistent with the name in his/her official identification document, e.g. passport] at the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance in issuing a United Nations grounds pass to the above representative(s) for the duration of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[signature and name and title of the  
head of the organization]

[official name of the organization]

[official seal of the organization]

Mr. Peter Van Laere  
Chief of Protocol  
Protocol and Liaison Service  
Room S-0201  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
Fax: 1-212-963-1921

cc: Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea,  
Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations