

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

***Twenty-seventh meeting***

New York, 12 to 16 June 2017

(Check UN Journal for updated Conference Room allocation)

Information for participants

The twenty-seventh meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be held in New York from 12 to 16 June 2017 (see paragraph 54 of [General Assembly resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016](#)).

***Officers of the Meeting***

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 and other documents***

The provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh meeting is contained in document [SPLOS/L.78](#). The provisional agenda as well as all other documents of the twenty-seventh meeting are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<https://documents.un.org/>) or on the website of the Division at [www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting\\_states\\_parties/twentyseventhmeetingstatesparties.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/twentyseventhmeetingstatesparties.htm)).

***Credentials***

Credentials of representatives 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) as soon as possible and *no later* than twenty-four hours after the opening of the Meeting on *Monday, 12 June 2017*, signed by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any person authorized by either of them (rule 13 (2) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties ([SPLOS/2/Rev.4](#))).

In conformity with the understanding reached by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties (see [SPLOS/263](#), paragraph 101), credentials should cover the period from 20 to 24 June 2016 and, to the extent

practicable, also thereafter until the convening of the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties.

Timely submission of credentials is essential to ensure the efficient conduct of the election of seven members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the election of twenty-one members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

### ***Observers***

Observers are invited to transmit 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) the names of the representatives who will form part of their delegation, as soon as possible.

### ***Papersmart***

PaperSmart arrangements will be available for the duration of the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties. Delegations wishing to circulate their statements electronically through the PaperSmart portal should send a copy of the statement at least one hour in advance of delivery to [papersmart5@un.org](mailto:papersmart5@un.org). The entity name, date of the meeting and the agenda item should be indicated in the heading of the statement and in the subject line of the e-mail. The statements will be made available on the PaperSmart portal after their delivery by delegations. PDF format is preferred. To access the PaperSmart of the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties, please [click here](#).

Delegations are kindly requested to provide twenty hardcopies of the text for the technical services no later than one hour before delivery of the statement.

### ***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, together with all other documents of the meeting.

[www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting\\_states\\_parties/twentyseventhmeetingstateparties.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/twentyseventhmeetingstateparties.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/71/74/Add.1); and

- The report of the Secretary-General on the topic of focus of the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, "The effects of climate change on oceans." (A/72/70).

### ***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](mailto:doalos@un.org)).

### ***Side events***

Expressions of interest to hold side events during the meeting must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat, no later than **5 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](mailto: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 with a standing invitation to attend the Meeting of States Parties should communicate their intention to attend the meeting directly to the Protocol and Liaison Service (Room S-0201, Fax: +1 212 963-1921 or email: [unprotocol@un.org](mailto:unprotocol@un.org)) by **31 May 2017**, with a copy to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs. 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 passes 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, by **31 May 2017**. The official letter must also include a name and email address of a focal point to receive the accreditation approval. The SG.6 form 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. An official document with photograph (e.g., passport) identifying the representative must be presented at that time. Representatives without

grounds passes will not be able to access the United Nations Headquarters compound.

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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 54 of General Assembly resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016 and further to the letter of invitation dated 3 April 2017, 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-seventh meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which will take place in New York from 12 to 16 June 2017.

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, 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