

**Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Jares  
Director, OLA/DOALOS**

Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The Division wishes to take this opportunity to update the twenty-first meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on the current financial status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, to attend the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process.

**[BACKGROUND]**

The Trust Fund was established by General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 to cover the cost of travel for panellists and other representatives of developing countries to meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. Pursuant to

General Assembly resolution 72/73 of 5 December 2017, the Trust Fund can also be used for daily subsistence allowance for invited panellists from developing countries, after the travel costs of all other recipients of assistance have been covered. The effective functioning of the Trust Fund, therefore, contributes to the success of the Informal Consultative Process by facilitating the participation of representatives of developing countries.

### **[FUND STATUS]**

Given the virtual nature of the present, twenty-first meeting, no funds from the Trust Fund were required to defray the cost of participation of panellists or meeting participants from developing countries.

The current balance of the Trust Fund that is available for future disbursement, as of the end of May 2021, is approximately **\$46,000**. Since the last meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, the Trust Fund received contributions from Monaco and New Zealand. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Monaco and New Zealand for their generous contributions.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Distinguished Delegates,

In this regard, we wish to recall paragraph 350 of General Assembly resolution 75/239 of 31 December 2020, in which the Assembly expressed its continued serious concern regarding the lack of resources available in the Trust Fund, and urged States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make additional contributions to the Trust Fund.

To ensure that the Trust Fund can provide meaningful support to the panelists and the representatives of developing States for future meetings of the Informal Consultative Process additional contributions will be needed.

Thank you.