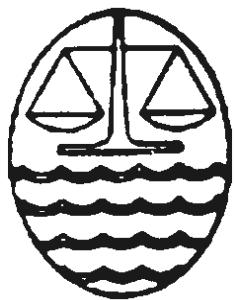




25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA



**Information on the events organized by the
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**

(17 October 2007)

- Briefing organized in cooperation
with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Forum organized in cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU)



DOALOS/UNITAR BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

17 October 2007

United Nations Headquarters, New York Conference Room 9

INFORMATION NOTE

OBJECTIVES

In connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as the annual deliberation by the General Assembly of the agenda item “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the briefing will provide an overview of the most recent developments in the field, including the progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982. It will also address developments with regard to sustainable fisheries and the implementation of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

In particular, the presentations at the briefing will highlight current issues related to the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and elaborate on salient topics such as marine biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, maritime security and safety, and ocean governance. In addition, the briefing will provide a forum for an exchange of views on current challenges in the implementation of the Convention and the related Agreements, in the context of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention. Particular attention will be paid to actions to be taken at the national, regional and global levels by States, United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and bodies and other international organizations. Finally, the briefing will attempt to sensitize the participants to the multilateral processes and practices that take place in the context of the negotiation of draft resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and fisheries issues.

ORGANIZATION

The briefing will be conducted in one session on 17 October 2007. The briefing will consist of a series of presentations and a discussion forum in a round-table format. Ample time will be provided for questions and answers on the topics under discussion. The briefing will be conducted in **English only**.

PARTICIPANTS

The briefing is intended for all delegates from permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York, in particular those interested in the field of oceans and the law of the sea and those who are involved in the negotiation of the draft resolution. UNITAR reserves the right to make a selection among the candidates, if necessary. The selected candidates are requested to regard their participation as a firm commitment.

REGISTRATION

Members of the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York who wish to attend the above-mentioned briefing are requested to submit their names through the invitation sent to the Head of the Permanent Mission and fax back the nomination form to:

UNITAR: Fax: 212-963-9686/-0995

For more information, contact Ms. Laura Fähndrich, UNITAR: 212-963-9196 or E-mail: info@unitarny.org

Registration deadline: Thursday, 11 October 2007



**DOALOS/UNITAR BRIEFING ON
DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA**
Wednesday, 17 October 2007
United Nations Headquarters, New York

NOMINATION FORM
(Important: Please type or print clearly)

The Permanent Mission of _____
nominates the following person to participate in the above-mentioned briefing.

() Ms. () Mr. _____
First Name *Last Name*

Functional title: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____
(Signature of the Head of the Mission)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Please return this form, **by Wednesday, 11 October 2007**, to:

UNITAR (Attn. Samy Saadi)
1 United Nations Plaza, Suite DC1-603
New York, NY 10017-3515
Phone: 212-963-9684 or 9196 Fax: 963-9686 or 0995
E-mail: info@unitarny.org

Reserved for UNITAR - Please do not write below this line

CONFIRMATION (will be faxed back to you between Oct. 15-16)

The above-mentioned person is invited to participate in the DOALOS/UNITAR briefing on developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea. This confirmation should be considered a firm commitment. In case of the candidate's inability to attend, kindly inform us in advance to enable us to offer the seat to another delegate.

The briefing will be conducted on Wednesday, 17 Oct. from 10 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. in Conference Room 9.

We look forward to welcoming you at the briefing.

(Date)

UNITAR representative

Colleen Thouez
Chief, UNITAR New York Office



**DOALOS/UNITAR BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS
AND THE LAW OF THE SEA**
17 October 2007

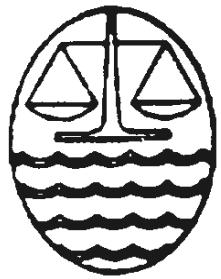
**United Nations Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 9**

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

10.00-10.15	Registration
10.15-10.25	Opening of the briefing
10.25-10.35	Introductory remarks by the Director of DOALOS on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
10.35-11.00	The work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
11.00-11.20	Marine biodiversity
11.20-11.40	Sustainable fisheries
11.40-12.00	Maritime security and safety
12.00-12.30	Institutional framework
12.30-3.00	Lunch break [from 1.15 to 2.45 Forum organized in cooperation with United Nations University]
3.00-6.00	Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCLOS - round table on selected themes



25 years since the adoption of UNCLOS



Lessons learned and the way forward

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the United Nations University

Conference Room 9

17 October 2007 - 1.15-2.45PM

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – more than 10 years in the making, now 25 years old, and fast approaching universal participation — is perhaps one of the most significant but less recognized 20th century accomplishments in the arena of international law.

It established for the first time one set of rules for the oceans, bringing order to a system fraught with potential conflict. Its scope is vast: it covers all ocean space, with all its uses, including navigation and overflight; all uses of all its resources, living and non-living, on the high seas, on the ocean floor and beneath, on the continental shelf and in the territorial seas; the protection of the marine environment; and basic law and order.

The Convention, often referred to as the “constitution of the sea”, is based on the all-important idea that the problems of the oceans are closely interrelated and must be addressed as a whole. Early on in the negotiating process, and possibly key to its success, it was agreed that the treaty must be taken as a whole, not bartered and argued piece by piece. And thus it was adopted on 30 April 1982. The Convention was opened for signature on 10 December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, when a record number of States, 119, signed on. Today, there are 154 States Parties plus the European Community.

The Convention has over the past 25 years not only demonstrated that it is the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, but also that its legal regime allows for sufficient flexibility to ensure its durability over time, while also addressing future challenges. The Convention is widely recognised by the international community as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and the seas must be carried out.

To celebrate the occasion of the Convention’s 25th anniversary the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the United Nations University will host a forum to reflect back on the first quarter of century of the Convention and to analyze current developments and trends in the dynamic field of the law of the sea.

The two key speakers, prominent experts in the field of the law of the sea, were extensively involved in the negotiations during the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea: **Professor Dr. Hasjim Djalal** (currently also Chairman of the Finance Committee of the International Seabed Authority) and **Professor Myron H. Nordquist** (Director of the Center for National Security Law, Center for Oceans Law and Policy University of Virginia School of Law).