
In accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Secretary-General addressed a communication, dated 28 September 2015, to States Parties informing them of a vacancy in the Commission owing to the resignation of Mr. Nenad Leder (Croatia) on 22 September 2015. The Secretary-General further informed States Parties that the twenty-fifth Meeting of States Parties would be resumed for the purpose of electing one member to fill the vacancy in the Commission. In addition, States Parties were invited to submit, from 1 October to 31 December 2015, nominations for the election of one member of the Commission, together with a statement of qualifications.

In this regard, article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention provides that "[t]he Commission shall consist of 21 members who shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography, elected by States Parties to this Convention from among their nationals, having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, who shall serve in their personal capacities." Furthermore, article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that "[n]ot less than three members shall be elected from each geographical region".

It is recalled that a Note by the Secretary-General on the Election of one member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (SPLOS/291) was made available to States Parties through the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/) as well as on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm). The Secretary-General thereby duly informed States Parties that, following the closure of the period of nominations on 31 December 2015, a list of candidates nominated by States Parties would be prepared by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention and made available on the website of the Division.
The Secretary-General notes that no nomination for the election of one member of the Commission was received before the expiry of the nomination period on 31 December 2015. Accordingly, a list of candidates nominated by States Parties will not be prepared by the Secretary-General for the resumed twenty-fifth Meeting of States Parties.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea the assurances of his highest consideration.

11 January 2016