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The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations presents its compliments to Representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and has the honour to refer to the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Office of Legal Affairs is pleased to transmit attached herewith a letter dated 24 November 2020 from the Vice-President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties, H.E. Ambassador Ibrahima Toure, addressed to Representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and annexed document, concerning agenda item 11(c) (*Draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the budget period 2021–2022*).

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration.



24 November 2020

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POSTAL ADDRESS-ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017  
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Le Bureau des affaires juridiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies présente ses compliments aux représentantes et représentants des États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer et a l'honneur de se référer à la trentième Réunion des États parties à la Convention.

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques a le plaisir de transmettre ci-joint une lettre datée du 24 novembre 2020, qui est adressée aux représentantes et représentants des États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer par le Vice-Président de la trentième Réunion des États parties, S.E. Ambassadeur Ibrahima Toure, et le document annexé, concernant le point 11 c) de l'ordre du jour (*Projet de budget du Tribunal international du droit de la mer pour l'exercice 2021-2022*).

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies saisit cette occasion pour renouveler aux représentantes et représentants des États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer les assurances de sa très haute considération.

  
 Le 24 novembre 2020

MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES



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*New York, 24 November, 2020*

Excellencies,

In my capacity as Acting President chairing the open-ended Working Group on Financial and Budgetary Matters on behalf of the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, pursuant to rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.5), I wish to refer to the letters of the President dated 27 and 30 October 2020, regarding the timetable and modalities for the consideration of the pending items on the agenda of the thirtieth Meeting, as outlined in the annex to his letter dated 27 October 2020 ([www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting\\_states\\_parties/documents/20201027NvLetEF.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/documents/20201027NvLetEF.pdf)).

I recall that during the virtual informal consultations of the Working Group held on 23 November 2020, I had proposed that the Working Group recommend that the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties adopt the total draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021-2022 in the amount outlined in annex I of document SPLOS/30/5, with the adjustments described in document SPLOS/30/5/Add.1. As a result, and as outlined in the intervention of the Registrar on 19 November 2020, the total draft budget proposals for the biennium 2021-2022 would amount to €24,155,000. My proposal received no objection.

Consequently, as I had outlined during the meeting of 23 November, I am pleased to provide, in the annex to this letter, the language that I propose to be included in the "*Draft Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021-2022*", and which I intend to send to the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties as part of my report on the work carried out in the Working Group.

In this connection I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the draft decisions have been drafted with inputs from the Registry of the Tribunal and follow the practice of the Meeting as reflected in past Decisions (see e.g. the Decisions adopted by the twenty-eighth Meeting, SPLOS/322).

I would welcome your written comments, if any, on the proposed draft decisions. Please convey your comments by 2 p.m. on Friday, 27 November 2020. Such comments should be sent by email to [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org) (copying [santosuosso@un.org](mailto:santosuosso@un.org)).

Following this period, I will report to the President of the thirtieth Meeting and propose that in his next letter to States Parties he annexes the *Draft Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022* proposed here, amended to reflect comments from delegations as necessary, with a view to adopting the Decisions at the plenary meeting on 9 December 2020.

Let me seize this opportunity to renew my gratitude to all delegations for their constructive participation during the virtual meetings on 19 and 23 November 2020.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ibrahima Toure".

H.E. Ambassador Ibrahima Toure

Vice-President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

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

## *Annex*

### *Draft Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022*

*The Meeting of States Parties,*

*Having considered* the draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021–2022 (SPLOS/30/5) and the addendum to the draft budget proposals (SPLOS/30/5/Add. 1),

1. *Approves* the amount of €24,155,000 as the budget of the Tribunal for 2021–2022, on the basis of annex I to document SPLOS/30/5 and in the light of the decrease of €257,400 in Section 2 “Judges’ pension scheme”, as indicated in document SPLOS/30/5/Add.1 and outlined by the Registrar in her report to the Open-Ended Working Group on Financial and Budgetary Matters;
2. *Decides that*, pursuant to regulation 5.3 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal (SPLOS/120), the contributions of States parties for each of the two years of the biennium 2021–2022 shall be determined on the basis of half of the appropriations adopted by the Meeting of States Parties for that budget period;
3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2017–2018 and 2019–2020 (SPLOS/30/3), *notes*, on the basis of that report, that the cash surplus for the financial period 2017-2018 amounted to €2,956,912 and that that amount would be surrendered and deducted from the contributions of States parties for 2021, in accordance with financial regulation 4, and *also notes* that it is no longer necessary to use parts of the 2017-2018 cash surplus to finance anticipated over-expenditures in the 2019-2020 budget period ;
4. *Authorizes* the Tribunal to make transfers between appropriation sections pursuant to regulation 4.6, to the extent that that is necessary to cover over-expenditures, in the event that the Tribunal is unable to meet approved expenditures for 2019-2020 from appropriations made with respect to certain budget lines;
5. *Encourages* the Registrar to continue to manage the funds prudently and efficiently, seeking to achieve optimum utilization of the financial resources of the Tribunal;
6. *Decides that*, without prejudice to the application of the provisions of article 19 of annex VI to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect of future budgets of the Tribunal regarding the contribution to be made by the International Seabed Authority, the budget of the Tribunal for 2021-2022 would be financed by all States parties to the Convention taking into account that the European Union indicated that its agreed contribution to the budget of the Tribunal would be €115,000 for each year; and
7. *Also decides* that a floor rate of 0.01 per cent and a ceiling rate of 22 per cent is to be used in establishing the rate of assessment of States parties for the budget of the Tribunal for 2021-2022.