



UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

**Sixty-fourth session of the
Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf**

**Statement by Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld,
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel**

Monday, 14 July 2025, 10 a.m.

Conference Room 6

Distinguished Members of the Commission,

It is my pleasure to address the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

First, I would like to welcome and offer warm congratulations to Mr. Stig-Morten Knutsen on his election as a member of the Commission by the thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on 26 June 2025. Mr. Knutsen, I wish you a very successful term of office.

Distinguished Members of the Commission,

The statements by many delegations at the recent thirty-fifth Meeting of States Parties, held in June, have shown the strong support for the Commission's work. As I understand, the



Commission will shortly hear an oral report by the Chairperson on the outcome of that Meeting.

I would therefore only note that some delegations addressed the practice of the Commission in relation to submissions involving disputes. It is clear that this aspect of the Commission's work continues to be of high interest to coastal States but the diversity of views on this matter also seems to confirm that the Commission is on the right track of maintaining consistency in its decisions.

On the issue of the long-standing vacant seat for a member of the Commission from the Group of Eastern European States, I note with regret that, once again, this vacancy could not be filled owing to a lack of nominations from that Group. In that regard, I truly hope that the new approach adopted by the Meeting will bring results, since if no candidate was identified by 1 March 2026, the Group of Eastern European States should transmit itself, by the same date, a pragmatic proposal on how to address the vacancy.

During the Meeting I encouraged States Parties to make every effort to ensure that all seats on the Commission are filled toward equitable geographical representation and the effective discharge of its mandate. In particular, I encouraged the nominations of women candidates.





I will continue to monitor any developments in relation to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission. These were addressed at the Meeting, including through the work of the Open-ended Working Group on this issue, but so far without tangible results.

My Office will provide assistance with a view to facilitating intersessional activities of the Working Group, to the extent possible, given the impacts of the liquidity situation.

In this context, let me mention that the building where the Commission conducts its work will undergo complete renovations in the course of the next three years. The Secretariat is making every effort to continue to provide the Commission with fit-for-purpose working space, adequate technical equipment and climate control, and keep it located within the same premises as the Division. My Office will continue updating the Commission as well as the Meeting of States Parties on future developments in this regard.

Distinguished Members of the Commission,

The liquidity crisis affecting the Secretariat continues to pose significant challenges. However, my Office, through the Division, remains committed to delivering high-quality support to the Commission at this and future sessions, within the available





means. Let me also express my appreciation to the membership of the Commission for your cooperation and understanding as the Secretariat navigates this situation.

I wish you a productive sixty-fourth session.

Thank you.

