

REFERENCE: MSP.N.2021.LOS.Add.1 (Notification – Meeting of States Parties)

**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
Montego Bay, 10 December 1982**

Convening of the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties
to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Pursuant to rule 5 (*Notification*) of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.5), and as an addendum to notification MSP.N.2021.LOS of 20 April 2021, the Secretary-General of the United Nations communicates the following:

In light of the continuing situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties, convened from 21 to 25 June 2021, will be held in a format combining in-person plenary meetings at United Nations Headquarters with virtual consultations. A provisional organization of work will be circulated to States Parties in due course.

It is anticipated that no more than one representative or observer per State Party or Observer State, respectively, will be allowed into the conference room in order to ensure social distancing requirements. Any changes in the COVID-19 pandemic arrangements at United Nations Headquarters, which might take place prior to the Meeting, will be communicated to States Parties in due course.

Parties

The attention of the States Parties to the Convention is drawn to rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure (*Submission of credentials*), pursuant to which credentials of representatives should be issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any person authorized by either of them.

The online module “e-Credentials” will be used to receive credentials to the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties. The e-Credentials module can be accessed at the e-deleGATE portal (<https://edelegate.un.int>).

States Parties are kindly requested to submit to e-Credentials, in pdf or an image format, as soon as possible and no later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the Meeting on 21 June 2021, the following:

- a scanned copy of the formal credentials; or
- a scanned copy of a duly signed communication from the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York containing provisional information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the thirty-first Meeting.

The original hard copy of credentials should be brought to the conference room on the first day of the Meeting. States Parties are kindly requested not to mail or hand-deliver credentials in advance of the Meeting.

Attention of States Parties is also drawn to the understanding reached by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties (see SPLOS/263, paragraph 101), according to which, in keeping with rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure (*Use of terms*), Meetings of States Parties can be adjourned and resumed as required and would terminate when the next Meeting of States Parties is convened. Therefore, the credentials for the thirty-first Meeting should be valid for the period from 21 June 2021 until the convening of the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties.

Observers

Pursuant to rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure (*Accreditation of observers*), observers referred to in rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure (*Observers*) are invited to transmit by email to the Secretariat at doalos@un.org the names of the representatives who will form part of their delegation, as soon as possible and preferably no later than 21 June 2021. The Conference Rooms may accommodate only a limited number of observers.

Documents

The documents referred to in the provisional agenda (document SPLOS/31/L.1, available through the Official Document System of the United Nations at <http://documents.un.org>) have been posted at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/thirtyfirstmeetingstatesparties.htm. All documents concerning past Meetings can be found at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/meeting_states_parties.htm.

