

REFERENCE: MSP/34/BY-ELECT/CLCS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the representatives of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “Convention”) and has the honour to communicate the following:

Vacancies in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

On 26 December 2023, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, informing the Secretariat of the passing of Mr. Ivan Glumov, a member of the Commission nominated by the Russian Federation and elected by the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties for a term of five years, from 16 June 2023 to 15 June 2028 (SPLOS/32/15). It is recalled that pursuant to the *Arrangement for the allocation of seats on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf*, approved by the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties on 26 June 2009 (SPLOS/201), Mr. Glumov occupied a seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States.

It is also recalled that another seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States has remained vacant. The resumed thirty-third Meeting of States Parties decided that, should the President of the Meeting receive from the Group of Eastern European States information about potential candidates no less than 14 weeks prior to the commencement of the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties, the Secretary-General would circulate a call for nominations, with a view to conducting elections at the thirty-fourth Meeting, with the deadline for nominations falling on 4 March 2024 (SPLOS/33/19, para. 14). In light of the vacancy that arose after the passing of Mr. Glumov and the need to conduct a by-election at the thirty-fourth Meeting, the nomination for the other seat allocated to the Group of Eastern European States that remains to be filled shall be open as outlined in the section “Procedure of nomination”, below.

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention, “[e]lections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters.” In addition, pursuant to rule 72 (*By-elections*) of the rules of procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.5), “[i]f the office of a member of the Commission becomes vacant, the Meeting of States Parties shall, in accordance with rule 71 [*Elections of the members of the Commission*)], elect a member for the remainder of the predecessor’s term.”

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 4, of Annex II to the Convention, “[t]he members of the Commission shall be elected for a term of five years. They shall be eligible for re-election”.

Therefore, a by-election to fill the recent vacancy will be held at the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, scheduled to be convened from 10 to 14 June 2024. An election for the other vacant seat on the Commission for the same term would also be held on this occasion.

Call for nominations

It is recalled that pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention, “[a]t least three months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties, inviting the submission of nominations, after appropriate regional consultations, within three months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated and shall submit it to all the States Parties.”

The Secretary-General hereby invites States Parties to the Convention to submit nominations with respect to the two above-mentioned vacant seats allocated to the Group of Eastern European States with a view to filling these vacancies at the thirty-fourth Meeting of States Parties.

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention, members of the Commission “shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography, elected by States Parties to [the] Convention from among their nationals, having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, who shall serve in their personal capacities”.

It is recalled that the Presidents of the thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third Meetings of States Parties emphasized the importance of ensuring full and effective participation and equal opportunities at all levels for women in institutions relevant under the Convention, in order to achieve gender equality, as recognized in Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (see SPLOS/31/13, para. 15; SPLOS/32/15, para. 73; SPLOS/33/15, para. 104). It is also recalled that the President of the thirty-second Meeting noted with regret that only one female candidate had been nominated for the elections of the Commission and elected (SPLOS/32/15, para. 73). States Parties are thus encouraged to give due regard to the desirability of addressing the gender imbalance in the Commission and to consider nominating female experts, with a view to promoting gender balance in the Commission.

Procedure of nomination

The period for the nomination of candidates for election of members of the Commission will open on 15 January 2024 and will close on 16 April 2024 at midnight (EST time). Nominations made before 15 January 2024 or after 16 April 2024 will not be accepted.

Following the end of the nomination period, the Secretary-General will prepare, in alphabetical order, a list of all the persons thus nominated. The list will then be submitted to all the States Parties.



Nominations must indicate the name of the candidate and be accompanied by a statement of qualifications. It is recalled that pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the Convention, members of the Commission shall be experts in the fields of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

The statement of qualifications should not exceed 400 words, however, the nominating State may additionally submit a more comprehensive *curriculum vitae* for publication on the web site of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs. Nominations must be addressed to:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations
c/o Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations DC2-0450
New York, NY 10017

The statement of qualifications of the candidate should also be transmitted electronically in MS Word format to: doalos@un.org.

Expenses of members while in performance of Commission duties – an undertaking by nominating States

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention, “the State Party which submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission shall defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties”. In addition to defraying the costs associated with relevant travel and subsistence allowance, this may also include appropriate life, medical and other forms of insurance covering the period of service.

The twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties “urged States parties that would nominate candidates for future elections of members of the Commission to formally undertake to support their candidates in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention. [...] Such an undertaking could be provided in the form of a note verbale that would accompany the nomination of a candidate to the Commission and would be brought to the attention of the Meeting of States Parties at the time of the election of the members of the Commission” (SPLOS/303, paragraph 79).

Moreover, the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties appealed to States “to ensure the full participation of the members of the Commission nominated by them in the work of the Commission, including by not scheduling conflicting activities for those members during the sessions of the Commission” (SPLOS/303, paragraph 80).

In this connection, it is recalled that the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties requested the Commission, as from 16 June 2017, to “meet at United Nations Headquarters for up to 26 weeks, but not less than an intended minimum of 21 weeks, per year for a period of five years, distributed in such a way that the Commission determines to be the most effective, and that no two sessions be sequential” (SPLOS/303, paragraph 84). It is further recalled that, the General Assembly has reiterated its

invitation to the Commission to continue meeting for a total of 21 weeks per year (A/RES/78/69, para. 90).

The Secretary-General 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.


16 January 2024



The seal of the United Nations Legal Counsel is circular. It features the United Nations emblem in the center, which is a world map surrounded by olive branches. The text "UNITED NATIONS" is written in a semi-circle at the top, and "NATIONS UNIES" is written in a semi-circle at the bottom. Inside the circle, the words "Legal Counsel" are written in English at the top and "Conseiller juridique" in French at the bottom.