



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



# INVITATION

**The Permanent Missions of Fiji, Jamaica, Malta, Portugal, Singapore and Uganda have the pleasure to invite you to a side event in the margins of the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

On

## **REFLECTIONS ON THIRTY YEARS OF OCEAN GOVERNANCE UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA: BUILDING ON THE PAST FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE**

WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2024

1.15 – 2.30 PM

VENUE: UNHQ, CR-1

Please register at [https://bit.ly/30yrsUNCLOS\\_12Jun24](https://bit.ly/30yrsUNCLOS_12Jun24) to participate.

## CONCEPT NOTE

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is the constitution for the oceans. As reaffirmed annually by the UN General Assembly, it sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. Concluded in 1982 following negotiations in the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Convention represents one of the United Nations' greatest achievements in addressing complex issues of the global commons through the progressive development and codification of international law.

This year, the Convention celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its entry into force. Over the course of the last three decades, consistent with its drafters' beliefs as reflected in its preamble, the legal regime for the ocean for which it is the foundation and the bodies that it created, namely, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, have contributed significantly to international peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations, as well as economic and social advancement.

The Convention continues to have relevance today. While comprehensive, its provisions can accommodate further development in specific areas, including the addressing of contemporary needs and challenges. The Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention was concluded in 1994 and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, known as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, was concluded in 1995. Last year, the Agreement under the Convention on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, known as the BBNJ Agreement, was adopted by consensus and opened for signature.

This event seeks to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. Panellists will reflect on the achievements of the Convention and the bodies that it established, and consider the impact that new developments such as the conclusion of the BBNJ Agreement will have on the legal regime for the ocean that is founded upon the Convention. They will also identify and discuss new issues and challenges that will arise in the law of the sea and how the legal regime underpinned by the Convention can and will respond.

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## **PROGRAMME**

### **Welcome Remarks**

- Ambassador Duncan Laki Muhumuza  
President of the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS
- Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations

### **Opening Remarks**

- Miguel de Serpa Soares  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel
- Ambassador Tommy Koh – pre-recorded  
Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- Ambassador Rena Lee – pre-recorded  
Ambassador for International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

### **Panel Discussion**

#### Panellists:

- Judge Tomas Heidar  
President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- Michael Lodge  
Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority
- Aldino Manuel dos Santos de Campos  
Chair, Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

#### Interactive segment for audience participation and with interventions from:

- Ambassador Filipo Tarakinikini  
Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations
- Ambassador Brian Wallace  
Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
- Jorge Eduardo Ferreira Silva Aranda  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Portugal

#### Moderator:

- Ambassador Janine Felson  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Belize