

7 June 2023

Contribution to the report of the Secretary-General  
on oceans and the law of the sea

Judicial work

1. The *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law* (Case No. 31) is pending before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (

any relevant circumstances existed requiring an adjustment of the provisional equidistance line in order to achieve an equitable solution. In this respect, the Special Chamber found that Blenheim Reef constituted such a relevant circumstance and decided to adjust the provisional equidistance line accordingly.

4. On the question of the delimitation of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, the Special Chamber concluded that its jurisdiction to delimit the continental shelf between the Parties included not only the continental shelf within 200 nautical miles but also any portion of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. It rejected the objection of the Maldives to the admissibility of Mauritius' claim on the grounds that its submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf was not filed in a timely manner.

## Capacity-building

8. Since 1997, the Tribunal has offered an internship programme for students of law, international relations, public relations, political science, library science and translation. Since 2007, with the support of the Nippon Foundation, the Tribunal has organized a capacity-building and training programme on dispute settlement under the Convention. Over 500 individuals from 120 States are part of the ITLOS alumni network, including more than 280 women. Since 2007, the Tribunal has also hosted the four-week Summer Academy of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea. In September 2021, the Tribunal established a Junior Professional Officer ("JPO") programme for young professionals to serve in the Legal Office of the Tribunal's Registry, or in other departments of the Registry, as necessary. On 1 December 2022, a memorandum of understanding between the Tribunal and the Government of China concerning the JPO programme was signed. The Tribunal has also organized a series of workshops on the settlement of disputes related to the law of the sea in different regions of the world. These workshops are intended to provide government experts working on maritime and law of the sea matters with a better understanding of the procedures for the settlement of disputes contained in Part XV of the Convention, with special emphasis on the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. On 1 and 2 June 2023, the Tribunal organized its 16<sup>th</sup> regional workshop in Nice, France, in cooperation with the Institute for Peace and Development Studies, Zewail City University and the financial support of France, Cyprus and the Korea Maritime Institute. A new capacity-building programme in the form of a series of workshops for legal advisers, and in ns, 842 reWBT/F1 1-5015AN82 reW/O2y8 h