

REFERENCE

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of [redacted] United Nations.

The Division wishes to refer to the Trust Fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, established by General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 and amended by General Assembly resolution 58/240 of 23 December 2003. The terms of reference, guidelines and rules for this Trust Fund are set out in annex II to resolution 55/7 and in the annex to resolution 58/240.

The objective of this Trust Fund is to provide financial assistance to developing States for the training of technical and administrative staff, preparation of desktop studies or other means to make an assessment of the nature of the continental shelf and its limits, working out of plans for the acquisition of necessary additional data and mapping projects and the preparation of final submission documents to the Commission. The Trust Fund also provides for advisory and consultancy assistance related to these points.

In order to facilitate the access of developing States to the Trust Fund, the Division wishes to inform the States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that assistance from this Trust Fund will now be effected by way of a grant which will enable the United Nations to provide assistance to States from the Trust Fund without States having to make financial outlays and then being reimbursed by the United Nations. However, reimbursement will still remain an option.

This new procedure does not change the requirement that under the Terms of Reference, guidelines and rules of the Trust Fund all applications for proposed activities in any States must be approved by the Independent Panel of Experts and the Division.

In order to assist with the administration of the Trust Fund, the Division respectfully requests that States submit their applications well in advance of any proposed project. In this regard, the Division would welcome being notified of the tentative dates of applications to the Trust Fund.

Further information regarding the Trust Fund is available on the Division's website at http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/trust_fund_article76.htm.

The Division would be most grateful if the Permanent Mission would kindly convey to its Government the above-mentioned information.

12 November 2007

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