

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA



Information on the events organized by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

(17 October 2007)

- Briefing organized in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Forum organized in cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU)

INSTITUT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA FORMATION ET LA RECHERCHE Bureau de New York



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DOALOS/UNITAR BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

Wednesday, 17 October 2007 United Nations Headquarters, New York

NOMINATION FORM

(Important: Please type or print clearly)

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Date:	(Sig	gnature of the Head of the Mission)	
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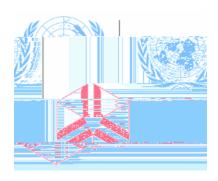
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DOALOS/UNITAR BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA 17 October 2007

United Nations Headquarters, New York Conference Room 9

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

10.00-10.15	Registration
10.15-10.25	Opening of the briefing
10.25-10.35	Introductory remarks by the Director of DOALOS on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
10.35-11.00	The work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
11.00-11.20	Marine biodiversity
11.20-11.40	Sustainable fisheries
11.40-12.00	Maritime security and safety
12.00-12.30	Institutional framework
12.30-3.00	Lunch break [from 1.15 to 2.45 Forum organized in cooperation with United Nations University]
3.00-6.00	Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCLOS - round table on selected themes



25 years since the adoption of UNCLOS



Lessons learned and the way forward

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the United Nations University

Conference Room 9

17 October 2007 - 1.15-2.45PM

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – more than 10 years in the making, now 25 years old, and fast approaching universal participation — is perhaps one of the most significant but less recognized 20th century accomplishments in the arena of international law.

It established for the first time one set of rules for the oceans, bringing order to a system fraught with potential conflict. Its scope is vast: it covers all ocean space, with all its uses, including navigation and overflight; all uses of all its resources, living and non-living, on the high seas, on the ocean floor and beneath, on the continental shelf and in the territorial seas; the protection of the marine environment; and basic law and order.

The Convention, often referred to as the "constitution of the sea", is based on the all-important idea that the problems of the oceans are closely interrelated and must be addressed as a whole. Early on in the negotiating process, and possibly key to its success, it was agreed that the treaty must be taken as a whole, not bartered and argued piece by piece. And thus it was adopted on 30 April 1982. The Convention was opened for signature on 10 December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, when a record number of States, 119, signed on. Today, there are 154 States Parties plus the European Community.

The Convention has over the past 25 years not only demonstrated that it is the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, but also that its legal regime allows for sufficient flexibility to