

General information concerning assistance from 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

Introduction

Paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 requested “the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a Trust Fund to provide training for technical and administrative staff, and technical and scientific advice, as well as personnel, to assist developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, for the purpose of desktop studies and project planning, and preparing and submitting information under article 76 and annex II to the Convention in accordance with the procedures of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.”¹ By virtue of this General Assembly resolution, this Trust Fund was created and the Terms of reference, guidelines and rules of this Trust Fund are set out in annex II to this resolution. Sections 1, 4 and 6 of these Terms of reference, guidelines and rules were amended by General Assembly resolution 58/240 of 23 December 2003 and these amendments are set out in the annex to that resolution. For copies of these resolutions see (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_.9563-38.3es TD0.0005 Tc0.1812 Tw{facilitaApwitic s

For information on the documentation that is required in respect of requests for assistance please refer to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Terms of reference, guidelines and rules of the Trust Fund (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/trust_fund_article76.htm).

Consideration of applications and granting of assistance

Each request for financial assistance shall be considered by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs, which acts as the secretariat of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. DOALOS engages an independent panel of experts to assist in the examination of applications and to recommend the amount of financial assistance to be given. In considering the application, DOALOS and the panel of experts are guided solely by the financial needs of the requesting developing State and availability of funds, with priority given to least developed countries and small island developing States, taking into