

9 June 2021

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

Judicial work

1. The Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean (Mauritius/Maldives) (Case No. 28) is pending before a Special Chamber of the Tribunal. On 19 May 2020, the President of the Special Chamber adopted an Order fixing the date for the opening of the oral proceedings with regard to the preliminary objections filed by the Maldives and, on 15 September 2020, the Tribunal adopted an O

Special Chamber has no jurisdiction to determine the disputed issue of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which it would necessarily have to do if it were to determine Mauritius' claims in these proceedings.

October 2020, the newly elected Judges made the solemn declaration provided for in article 5 of the Rules of the Tribunal. The swearing-in ceremony was held in hybrid format, with some judges present in the courtroom and others attending via video link. Judge Brown, who was among the judges attending through video link, made her solemn declaration remotely. The ceremony was streamed live on the Tribunal's website.

6. On 2 October 2020, the Tribunal, in its new composition, elected Judge Albert J. Hoffmann President of the Tribunal and Judge Tomas Heidar Vice-President, for a term of three years. The elections took place during the Fiftieth Session of the Tribunal, which was held in a hybrid format. A secure electronic voting system was used for the elections. The President and the Vice-President entered upon their functions forthwith.

Rules of the Tribunal

7. During the