

Check against delivery

Statement by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of Sea, Office of
Legal Affairs to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

York taking active roles on behalf of their States or other national and regional organisations in important fora and processes related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea. Most recently, one of the 1994 fellows, Mr. Maurice Kengne Kamga of Cameroon, was elected judge as a member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in August of last year.

Distinguished delegates,

Ms. Linda Bana of Ghana was awarded the 2020 fellowship. However, considering international travel restrictions due to the Coronavirus -19 pandemic and related situation in New York, the 2020 HSA Fellowship was tentatively postponed to 2021. Given the continued travel restrictions during the fall of this year, Ms. Bana was given the choice to undertake a virtual fellowship in 2021 or defer the fellowship until 2022, in the hopes that it can be undertaken in person.

It is now more than ever important for developing countries, to build and maintain the capacity to actively participate in ocean-related processes, which are many. From better understanding and effective implementation of international law of the sea, as reflected in UNCLOS, its two implementing Agreements and other related international instruments, to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14; from the implementation of the commitments under the Paris Agreement, which noted the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, to the effective participation in the ongoing BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference negotiations, the needs are indeed many and the challenges plentiful.

It is, therefore, critical that awards under this Fellowship are implemented continuously and consistently, including so that States can plan accordingly for the application and eventual release of Staff. This implies that the necessary funding is made available to this end. I note in this regard that, due to insufficient funds, no awards were made from 2007 to 2009, in 2014

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