

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Trust Fund
List of offers of professional assistance
pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7

Article 287, Part XV, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides that “When signing, ratifying or acceding to this Convention or at any time thereafter, a State shall be free to choose, by means of a written declaration, one or more of the following means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention:

- (a) the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea established in accordance with Annex VI;
- (b) the International Court of Justice;
- (c) an arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with Annex VII;
- (d) a special arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with Annex VIII for one or more of the categories of disputes specified therein.”

The Secretariat already operates a Trust Fund for the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration has established a Financial Assistance Fund. In resolution 55/7, the General Assembly stated that the burden of costs should not be a factor for States, in making the choices under article 287, in deciding whether a dispute should be submitted to the Tribunal or in deciding upon the response to an application made to the Tribunal by others. Therefore, it was decided to create a Trust Fund for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Resolution 55/7 also requested the Secretariat to keep a list of offers of professional assistance which may be made on a reduced fee basis by suitably qualified persons or bodies.

The said list is maintained by the Secretariat and is available upon request by Member States.

It should be noted that the inclusion of any firm/entity on the list of offers of professional assistance does not, in any way, presuppose a validation of the firm/entity or its services by the United Nations.

The firm/entity shall not advertise or otherwise make public for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill or in any other manner that the name of the firm/entity has been included on the said list, nor can, the firm/entity use the name, emblem or official logo of the United Nations, or any abbreviation of the name of the United Nations in any way whatsoever in connection with its business or otherwise, without prior written authorization from the Organization.