



**Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**  
**(DOALOS):**

***Its functions as the Secretariat of the Commission  
on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and  
its role in implementing the United Nations  
Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)***

**Dr. Václav Mikulka, Director**  
**Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)**  
**Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations**

**The Ocean Policy Research Foundation Seminar, Tokyo, Japan, 27 February 2008**



## **DOALOS as the Secretariat of the CLCS: major functions**

**Receiving submissions from coastal States and giving publicity to their executive summaries**

**Organizing and servicing the meetings of the Commission and its Subcommissions**

**Facilitating the consideration of submissions by the Commission and its Subcommissions**



# Receiving submissions

## Received submissions





## Receiving submissions (continued)

Secretariat verifies, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission, whether the submission contains all three parts, namely:

**Executive  
summary:  
22 copies**

**Main body  
(analytical  
and  
descriptive  
part):  
8 copies**

**Supporting  
scientific  
and  
technical  
data:  
2 copies**



## Receiving submissions (continued)

**Secretariat undertakes the following activities:**

- **Acknowledgement to the submitting State**
- **Notification to the Commission, and all Member States of the United Nations**
- **Publication of the executive summary on the website**
- **Inclusion of the examination of the submission in the agenda of the next session of the Commission**
- **Notification to the submitting State of the date and place of the meeting with invitation to send its representatives**



## Organizing and servicing the meetings

### Secretariat undertakes the following activities:

- **Arrangements for the meetings of the Commission and its Subcommissions;**
- **Designation of the Secretary/Deputy Secretary for the Commission and a Secretary for each of the Subcommissions;**
- **Provision of GIS laboratories and other facilities;**
- **Arrangements for meeting of the Commission/Subcommission with the representatives of the coastal State and its technical experts.**



## Organizing and servicing the meetings (continued)

### Content of the presentation of submission to the Commission

- **Charts indicating the proposed limits;**
- **The criteria of article 76 which were applied;**
- **The names of members of the Commission who assisted the coastal State by providing scientific and technical advice with respect to delineation;**
- **Information regarding any dispute related to the submission;**
- **Comments on any note verbale from other States regarding the data reflected in the executive summary including all charts and coordinates made public**



## Organizing and servicing the meetings (continued)

The preliminary examination of submissions by Subcommissions determines:

- Whether the test of appurtenance is satisfied; (2.2.8 Guidelines)
- Which criteria under article 76 has been applied;
- Whether segments of the outer limit of the extended continental shelf are not longer than 60 nautical miles;
- Whether advice of any specialist or the collaboration of any international organization is required considering the nature of the submission;
- Whether any matter requires clarification from the submitting State;
- Information regarding any disputes.



## Organizing and servicing the meetings (continued)

### The main scientific and technical examination – detailed process :

- **Evaluation of the scientific and technical information submitted by the State;**
- **Verification of the outer limits as proposed and several other related aspects.**

**DOALOS provides technical facilities and support for such examination and maintains communication between the Subcommittee and the submitting State.**



## **Facilitating the consideration of submissions**

### **Facilities used by the Commission and its Subcommissions**

**Conference room with audio and visualization equipment**

**Three GIS laboratories**

**Suite of offices for the Chairman of the Commission and the chairmen of Subcommissions during the session**

**Highly-secured room for the storage of submissions in accordance with the security-requirements provided for in the rules of procedure of the Commission**

**Printing room with a large-format scanner and plotter, a medium-format plotter and laser monochrome printer**



## Facilitating the consideration of submissions (continued)

### Geographic Information System services

- **Compilation of data contained in the submission into a consistent GIS format;**
- **Calculation of geodetic distances, using a number of different methods;**
- **Facilitating the analysis of the 2D data;**
- **Facilitating the analysis of the 3D data;**
- **Research for additional scientific or bathymetric information and its incorporation into the consistent GIS format.**



## Facilitating the consideration of submissions (continued)

### Software packages required by the Commission

**ESRI ArcGIS**

**Caris LotS**

**GeoCap**

**GeoSoft**

**Marzone**

**Surfer**

**ERDAS Imagine**

**Fledermaus**



## Other functions and activities

- **Providing information, advice, assistance and conducting research and preparing studies;**
- **Substantive servicing of meetings;**
- **Discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General (other than treaty depositary functions);**
- **Providing support to the organizations of the United Nations system;**
- **Capacity building: trainings, fellowships and technical assistance;**
- **Monitoring and research activities and maintaining a comprehensive information system and research library .**



## Other functions and activities (continued)

### Substantive servicing of the meetings

- Meetings of the States Parties;
- United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;
- Informal consultations of State Parties to the Agreement for the implementation of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement);
- Informal consultations concerning the annual resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and fisheries;
- Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.



## Other functions and activities (continued)

**Discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, related agreements and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (other than treaty depositary functions)**

- **Depositary and due publicity functions (charts and geographical coordinates)**
  - **Depositary of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation**
  - **Giving due publicity thereto**
  - **Maintaining database/ texts of national legislation on maritime zones and treaties dealing with the delimitation of maritime boundaries**
- **Coordination and Liaison functions**
- **Administration of Trust Funds**



## Other functions and activities (continued)

### Coordination and Liaison functions (based on relationship agreements)

- **International Seabed Authority**
- **International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea**



## Other functions and activities (continued)

### Administration of trust funds

- Trust fund to assist members of the CLCS from developing States to participate in the meetings
- Trust fund to facilitate the preparation of submissions to the CLCS for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States
- Voluntary trust fund to assist developing countries in attending meetings of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
- Trust fund to assist States in their settlement of disputes through ITLOS
- Trust fund for assistance to States participating in the Conference on Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean
- Assistance fund under Part VII of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement



## Other functions and activities (continued)

### Capacity building: fellowships

- **The Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship (twenty-third year of operation - 26 candidates have received the fellowship)**
- **United Nations - Nippon Foundation fellowship programme (over three years - 40 fellowships awarded - nationals from some 35 States - agreements with some 30 of the worlds most recognized institutions in various areas of ocean affairs and the law of the sea - research outputs available online: [www.un.org/depts/los.nippon](http://www.un.org/depts/los.nippon))**



## Other functions and activities (continued)

### Capacity building: trainings

- **Seven training courses organized since 2005 for all the developing States with a potential for an extended continental shelves;**
- **Train-Sea-Coast Programme (TSC) Administered by the Division and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project GLO/98/G35;**
- **DOALOS/UNITAR Briefings: Focus on both overviews and key developments with regard to contemporary issues with a view to facilitate negotiations on the draft General Assembly resolutions related to the item “Oceans and the Law of the Sea”**



## Other functions and activities (continued)

Monitoring and research activities and maintaining a comprehensive information system and research library

- **UN Law of the Sea website**  
[www.un.org/depts/los/index.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/index.htm);
- **Law of the Sea Library (established during the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea) - specialized reference collection containing books, journals, documentation and electronic resources dealing with the law of the sea, as well as the United Nations and international law in general;**
- **Contribution to Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) and providing access to this database.**



***Thank you for your kind attention!***

**Dr. Václav Mikulka, Director  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)  
Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations**

**The Ocean Policy Research Foundation Seminar, Tokyo, Japan, 27 February 2008**