

30  
10:30 hrs



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

CHAMBER

122 E 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET, FLOOR 59, NEW YORK, NY 10017  
TEL: (212) 697-7620 FAX: (212) 697-7621

E-Mail: [tn@un.int](mailto:tn@un.int)

March 15, 2010

Mr. Serguei A. Torosyan  
Director  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017

Mr. Director,

**Re: Input into update of the Convention**

The ninth session of the Commission on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will facilitate an informal working group to continue its consideration of issues to be included in the Convention. The Commission...

The Informal Working Group met six (6) occasions to consider issues relating to the development of the Convention. It held six committee discussions and three plenary sessions this year. However, in response to the resolution of the Commission on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the Informal Working Group requests that the Commission consider its comments on these issues in the context of the update of the Convention.

The Informal Working Group commends the Commission on its continuing progress on matters relating to its work and the commitment of the members of the Commission to participate and contribute constructively in their permanent capacity to the functioning of the Informal Working Group.

The Informal Working Group submits its comments in accordance with paragraph 60 of UNCA resolution C/L. 5, for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting. We sincerely hope that the two parts of the Treaty will be adopted without further delay and that the functioning of the Informal Working Group will be continued in an informed manner.

The Informal Working Group expresses its ongoing appreciation to the Secretary-General, his staff and his various units, in particular the assistance provided by the Division of Conference Affairs of the Office of Legal Affairs.

The comments which aim to reflect proposed solutions to the financial difficulties can be grouped into the following categories:

#### Systemic measures:

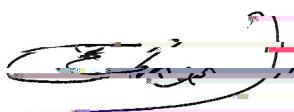
- increased number of sessions;
- increased length of sessions;
- full-time sitting of the Commission;
- increased number of Sub-commissions;
- forward planning by the Commission;
- achieving consistency in its annual issues - and pre-emptive analysis by each between Sub-commissions.

#### Support measures:

- increased technical support;
- increased secretariat support;
- increased support from outside expertise;
- more efficient internal organization of the Commission and its working States;
- assistance from other bodies

#### Financing options:

- States honouring their obligation under article 3, paragraph 5, of the Convention;
- solutions to be found from existing resources;
- strengthening the existing Trust Fund, including by extending its terms of Reference;
- creating a new Trust Fund;
- assessment of the UN's contribution to the UNDP's budget;
- regular UN budget.



Eden Charles  
Coordinator of the Informal Working Group

<sup>1</sup> The inclusion of proposals submitted to the Informal Working Group in this document is without prejudice to the position of individual members of the group.