

# IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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## IMLI COURSE ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF MARITIME DISPUTES AND DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

On 4 May 2026, IMLI commenced its annual edition of the IMLI Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries.

The Course provided a comprehensive introduction to, and an analysis of, the different international maritime dispute settlement mechanisms, the boundary-making process and the alternatives available to States, including any provisional arrangements.



Discussions on the development of specific maritime dispute settlement procedures within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the role of international courts and tribunals in the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes, and the substantial jurisprudence these bodies have developed in the field, were an integral part of this Course.



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**IMLI COURSE ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF MARITIME DISPUTES AND DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES**  
4-20 MAY 2026

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In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) warmly welcomed the participants who were attending both in person and online to the inauguration of this specialized Course.

He noted that the Institute was particularly honoured to welcome Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]), who yet again, had most graciously accepted to deliver the Inaugural Lecture of this specialized Course.

Director Martínez Gutiérrez described the participation of President Heiðar as a fitting opening to a programme dedicated to the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes and the important role played by international courts and tribunals.

The Director noted that this specialized Course reflects IMLI's continued commitment to advancing the rule of international maritime law and strengthening the legal capacity of IMO Member States. Through this specialized training and through its capacity-building initiatives, IMLI is always seeking to equip maritime professionals and government officials with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the increasingly complex legal challenges within the maritime domain.

Highlighting the significance of the Course's subject matter, Director Martínez Gutiérrez underscored that the peaceful settlement of disputes remains a cornerstone of the international legal order. In the maritime context, where competing interests and overlapping claims may arise, effective legal mechanisms for dispute resolution and maritime boundary delimitation are essential for maintaining stability, fostering cooperation among States, and promoting the peaceful use of the oceans.

The Director, then proceeded to introduce Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 and the external participants attending this specialized Course.

Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered the *Inaugural Address* of the IMLI Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries which was followed by a lecture entitled “*Advisory Opinion of ITLOS on Climate Change*”.



Mr. Lester Ortega Lemus (Director, LexOceana) delivered a lecture entitled “*The International Court of Justice: Its Contribution to the Settlement of Maritime Disputes*”.

Judge Kathy-Ann Brown (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a lecture entitled “*Introduction to International Dispute Settlement*”.



Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Jurisdiction of the Tribunal*” and “*Relations between ITLOS and State Parties*”.

Judge Maurice Kamga (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Prompt Release”*.



Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo (Ramon y Cajal Research Fellow, University of Cadiz) delivered a lecture entitled *“Extended Continental Shelf”*.

Mr. Coalter G. Lathrop (Principal, Sovereign Geographic; Lecturer, Duke Law) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Dispute Settlement concerning activities in the Area”* and *“Relevant Coasts and Relevant Areas”*.



Dr. Reece Lewis (Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University) delivered a lecture entitled *“Islands and the Delimitation of Maritime Zones”*.

Judge Konrad Jan Marciniak (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Agreements on Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries”*.



Dr. Robin Cleverly (Maritime Boundary Expert - Marbdy Consulting) delivered a lecture entitled *“Technical Aspects of the Recent Maritime Boundary Delimitation Cases (2014-2026)”*.

Judge Frida M. Armas Pfirter (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Provisional Measures”*.



Judge Markiyany Kulyk (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Military Activities’ Clause in the Jurisprudence of ITLOS and Arbitral Tribunals”* and *“Advisory Proceedings under UNCLOS”*.

Professor Dr. iur. Anna Petrig (Research Dean and Chair of International Law and Public Law, University of Basel) delivered a lecture entitled “*The Role of ad hoc Judges*”.



Judge Maria Teresa Infante Caffi (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a lecture entitled “*Presenting Before International Courts and Tribunals: A Practitioner’s Perspective*”.

Professor Eric De Brabandere (Professor of International Dispute Settlement Law, Leiden University) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Investment Treaty Arbitration and Maritime Disputes*”.



Mr. Yuri Parkhomenko (Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Initiating Proceedings and Mastering Written Pleadings in Inter-State Disputes*” and “*Mastering Written Pleadings: Types, Formal Requirements, Preparation, and Persuasive, Ethical Advocacy*”.

Professor Philippe Gautier (Registrar, International Court of Justice) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Experts/Witnesses before International Courts”*.



Judge Oscar Cabello Sarubbi (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Advisory Opinion on Fishing in the EEZ of Other States (Case No. 21)”*.

Professor Alina Miron (Professor of International Law, University of Angers) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Consultations and Identification of the Judicial Body”* and *“Preparation of Oral Pleadings: Oral Advocacy and Presentation of the Case”*.



Mr. Robert van de Poll (Global Director Law of the Sea, Fugro) delivered the annual Workshop entitled *“Maritime Limits and Boundaries: Delimitation Workshop”*.

Professor Peter Bekker (Partner, Dentons USA LLP; Chair Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee) delivered the annual Workshop entitled “*Maritime Limits and Boundaries: Delimitation Workshop*”.



This specialized Course was co-ordinated by Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Assistant Professor in International Maritime Law/Coordinator of Academic Activities, IMLI), who, together with the Members of the IMLI Faculty, delivered several lectures within this specialized Course.

