

IMLI *e*-NEWS

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ITLOS-FAO-IMLI JOINT WORKSHOP ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF LIVING MARINE RESOURCES AND THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA IN THE SETTLEMENT OF FISHERIES DISPUTES HELD IN MALTA

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held a joint Workshop entitled “*Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources and the Role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the Settlement of Fisheries Disputes*”. The Workshop was held at IMLI and ran between the 18 and 19 August 2026.



Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS), Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Secretary, FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO), and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with ITLOS Judges, ITLOS Registrar, ITLOS Legal Officer, FAO Legal Officer, the IMLI Faculty and the workshop participants

Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS) and Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Secretary, FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO) delivered the Opening Statements of this Workshop. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the Welcoming Remarks.



Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS) and Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Secretary, FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO) delivering the Opening Statements of the Workshop



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcoming Remarks

The event was structured around four Workshops, focusing on: *“The International Legal Framework on Fisheries”, “Combating IUU Fishing”, “Proceedings before the Tribunal: Jurisdiction and Urgent Proceedings”, and “Fisheries Cases before the Tribunal”.*



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) delivered two presentations entitled *“Introduction to International Fisheries Law”* and *“Relevant Treaties and Soft Law Instruments”* within Workshop 1.

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) delivering her presentations

Dr. Matthew Camilleri and Dr. Buba Bojang (Legal Officer, FAO Development Law Service — LEGN, FAO) then delivered the presentations of Workshop 2. Dr. Camilleri's presentations focused on *"Preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing"* and the *"Linkages with RFMOs and other treaties (BBNJ Agreement, WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, etc.)"*, whilst Dr. Bojang spoke about the *"Rights and Responsibilities of States (flag State, port State, coastal States and market States)"*.



Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Secretary, FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO) and Dr. Buba Bojang (Legal Officer, FAO Development Law Service — LEGN, FAO) delivering their presentations

Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS) and Judge Kriangsak Kittichaisaree (Judge, ITLOS) delivered the presentations of the first part of Workshop 3. Judge Heiðar's presentation provided an *"Overview: The Settlement of Disputes under Part XV of the Convention and the Role of ITLOS."* Judge Kittichaisaree spoke about *"The Jurisdiction of the Tribunal with regard to Fisheries Disputes."*



Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS) and Judge Kriangsak Kittichaisaree (Judge, ITLOS) delivering their presentations

The second part of Workshop 3 followed with the presentations by Mr. Nikiforos Panagis (Legal Officer, ITLOS) and Ms. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, ITLOS). Mr. Panagis's presentation centered on "*Prompt Release of Vessels and Crews*", whilst Ms. Hinrichs Oyarce discussed "*Provisional Measures under the Convention*".



Mr. Nikiforos Panagis (Legal Officer, ITLOS) and Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, ITLOS) delivering their presentations

As part of the 4th and final Workshop Judge Ida Caracciolo (Judge, ITLOS) delivered a presentation focused on "The Tribunal's Advisory Opinion on IUU fishing" whilst Judge Konrad Jan Marciniak (Judge, ITLOS) discussed "*Fisheries Disputes (including the Southern Bluefin Tuna Cases and the Swordfish Case)*".



Judge Ida Caracciolo (Judge, ITLOS) and Judge Konrad Jan Marciniak (Judge, ITLOS) delivering their presentations

The final session of the joint ITLOS-FAO-IMLI Workshop was a Roundtable Discussion. This session provided the Workshop participants with an opportunity to exchange views, insights and experiences based on their professional expertise, both with the distinguished members of the Roundtable Panel as well as with other fellow participants.

The discussions that took place, offered a valuable opportunity for the reflection on the key themes addressed throughout the Workshop and to the fostering of an open and constructive exchange of perspectives on the sustainable use of living marine resources and the settlement of fisheries disputes.

