

**REGISTER
NOW**

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

IMO
International Maritime Law Institute



OVER 35 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

SYNOPSIS

The peaceful settlement of disputes is a cornerstone of international law. Unlike domestic legal systems, the resolution of disputes at the international level depends largely on the consent of States. However, the enforcement of decisions issued by international courts and tribunals has posed challenges. In the maritime domain, the delimitation of maritime boundaries remains one of the most sensitive and complex issues in inter-State relations. Overlapping claims and competing entitlements frequently give rise to disputes involving sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction, and access to valuable natural resources and economic activities. These boundary disputes carry considerable conflict and security risks, and unresolved maritime boundaries between States can easily undermine international peace and security. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS) defines the maritime zones and sets out the main principles governing the delimitation of maritime boundaries.

It is submitted that international courts and tribunals have not only applied the provisions of the UNCLOS but have also elaborated upon them, establishing principles or clarifying the existing rules that have crystallized into customary international law. Consequently, an analysis of such decisions is essential to understand the framework governing maritime boundary delimitation. Moreover, in situations where States have not successfully delimited their maritime boundaries, the desire to exploit the oceans' natural resources has prompted some States to adopt alternative arrangements. Such alternative arrangements do not prejudice any future delimitation and may vary in their content and format according to the needs of particular countries. Therefore, these arrangements for the exploitation of the resources, pending agreements on the delimitation of maritime boundaries, also warrant closer examination, with particular focus on the model arrangements found in State practice.



The Course provides a comprehensive introduction to, and an analysis of, various international maritime dispute settlement mechanisms as well as the boundary-making process and the alternative arrangements available to States, including provisional measures. It also explores the principal methods of settlement of maritime disputes under UNCLOS and examines its relevant provisions. The Course discusses the evolution of specific maritime dispute settlement procedures within the law of the sea regime, addressing the interaction among these mechanisms and assessing whether there is any fragmentation in the practice of international courts and tribunals.

In light of UNCLOS's establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for interpreting and applying the Convention, the Course investigates ITLOS's role in the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, with a particular focus on the jurisprudence concerning maritime boundary delimitation. To this end, the Course draws on the extensive experience of distinguished ITLOS Judges, who will offer participants valuable insight into the Tribunal's contribution to the field.

The Course also devotes particular attention to the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Through its landmark maritime delimitation cases, the Court has articulated foundational principles and methodologies that continue to shape international maritime law. Moreover, by addressing both inter-State and investor-State arbitration for maritime disputes, the lectures aim to provide participants with a thorough understanding of the multifaceted avenues available for resolving maritime disputes.

Finally, the Course brings together distinguished practitioners who will share practical insights and first-hand experience, further enhancing participants' understanding of maritime dispute settlement and boundary delimitation.



Judge Tomas Heidar (President, ITLOS) inaugurating the Course

COURSE PROGRAMME

Introductory Address

Professor Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez (Director, IMLI)

Inaugural Address: Dispute Settlement under UNCLOS and the Role of ITLOS

Judge Tomas Heidar (President, ITLOS)

MODULE I: GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF SETTLEMENT OF MARITIME DISPUTES

Advisory Opinion of ITLOS on Climate Change

Judge Tomas Heidar

International Dispute Settlement

Judge Kathy-Ann Brown (Judge, ITLOS)

Jurisdiction of ITLOS

Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, ITLOS)

Relations between ITLOS and State Parties

Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce

The Contribution of ICJ to the Development of the Law on Settlement of Maritime Disputes

Mr. Lesther Antonio Ortega Lemus (Strategic Adviser - LexOceana)

MODULE II: MARITIME ZONES

Coastal Jurisdictional Zones in Customary International Law

Judge David J. Attard (Judge, ITLOS; Professor of Public International Law and the Law of the Sea, IMLI)

Baselines

Professor Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez

Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone

Professor Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez

The Exclusive Economic Zone

Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI)

The Continental Shelf

Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo (Ramon y Cajal Research Fellow, University of Cadiz)

The Relationship between the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf

Dr. Murat Sümer

MODULE III: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDER UNCLOS

Dispute Settlement under UNCLOS Part XV Dr. Murat Sümer

Prompt Release Judge Maurice Kamga (*Judge, ITLOS*)

Advisory Proceedings Judge Markiyan Kulyk (Judge, ITLOS)

Provisional Measures Judge Frida María Armas Pfirter (Judge, ITLOS)

Advisory Opinion on Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Other States (Case No. 21) Judge Oscar Cabello Sarubbi (Judge, ITLOS)

Fisheries Disputes under UNCLOS Dr. Murat Sümer

Limitations and Exceptions under Part XV of UNCLOS Dr. Murat Sümer

The Military Activities Clause in the Jurisprudence of ITLOS and Arbitral Tribunals Judge Markiyan Kulyk

Conciliation Judge Frida María Armas Pfirter

Dispute Settlement concerning activities in the Area Mr. Coalter G. Lathrop (Principal, Sovereign Geographic; Lecturer, Duke Law)

Settlement of Disputes under the BBNJ Agreement Dr. Murat Sümer



Professor Philippe Gautier (Registrar, ICJ) delivering a lecture in the Course

MODULE IV: MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATION

Agreements on Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries

Judge Konrad Jan Marciniak (Judge, ITLOS)

Relevant Coasts and Relevant Areas

Mr. Coalter G. Lathrop

Technical Aspects of the Recent Maritime Boundary Delimitation Cases

Dr. Robin Cleverly (Maritime Boundary Expert - Marbdy Consulting)

The Three-Stage Approach to Maritime Boundary Delimitation

Dr. Murat Sümer

Role of Islands in Maritime Boundary Delimitation

Dr. Reece Lewis (Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University)

Equitable Considerations in the Maritime Boundary Delimitation

Dr. Murat Sümer

Provisional Arrangements Pending Delimitation

Dr. Murat Sümer

Workshop on Maritime Limits and Boundaries: Legal and Scientific Delimitation

Mr. Robert van de Poll (Global Director Law of the Sea, Fugro) and Professor Pieter Bekker (Partner, Dentons USA LLP; Chair Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee)



Mr. Robert van de Poll and Professor Pieter Bekker with the Course Participants

MODULE V: INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION PRACTICE IN MARITIME DISPUTES

Consultations and Identification of the Judicial Body

Professor Alina Miron (Professor of International Law at the University of Angers)

The Role of ad hoc Judges

Professor Anna Petrig (Chair of International and Public Law, University of Basel)

Initiating Proceedings: Strategic and Tactical Considerations

Mr. Yuri Parkhomenko (Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes)

Mastering Written Pleadings: Types, Formal Requirements, Preparation, and Persuasive, Ethical Advocacy

Mr. Yuri Parkhomenko

Treatment of Evidence and Expert Witness

Professor Philippe Gautier (Registrar, ICJ)

Inter-State Arbitration and the Permanent Court of Arbitration

Dr. Murat Sümer

Investment Treaty Arbitration and Maritime Disputes

Professor Eric De Brabandere (Professor of International Dispute Settlement Law, Leiden University)

The Role of UNCLOS in Investor-State Arbitration

Dr. Murat Sümer

Preparation of Oral Pleadings: Oral Advocacy and Presentation of the Case

Professor Alina Miron

Case Management: Identification of Legal Advisors, Creation of Legal Team, Coordination of the Team, Appointment of Agents

Judge Ida Caracciolo (Judge, ITLOS)

Presenting Before International Courts and Tribunals: A Practitioner's Perspective

Judge Maria Teresa Infante Caffi (Judge, ITLOS)

Compliance with UNCLOS Dispute Settlement Decisions

Dr. Murat Sümer

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Course is addressed to government officials and private practitioners responsible for advising or representing States in the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and delimitation of maritime boundaries. It is also intended for those who provide legal or advisory services to government departments, including Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Maritime Affairs.

The Course is also particularly suitable for diplomats and legal advisers involved in the drafting, review, and negotiation of maritime agreements, especially those relating to maritime boundaries.

The Course will be delivered in a hybrid mode. Participants who attend at least 80 per cent of the lectures will be eligible to receive a Certificate of Attendance.



Judge Tomas Heidar (President, ITLOS) and Professor Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez (Director, IMLI) with the IMLI Class of 2025

TUITION FEE

€ 2,500

*To apply, please contact by not later than 27 April 2026
admissions@imli.org*

Bearing in mind that eminent personalities from all over the world deliver lectures in the Institute's courses, candidates applying to a course shall be flexible as the dates of delivery may be subject to change. The Institute reserves the right to make changes to the programme.

More information regarding the IMLI's programmes and courses is available on the IMLI website:
<https://www.imli.org/content/programmes-and-courses>

For information on admissions, please contact:
admissions@imli.org

