



## Assembly

Distr.: General  
24 February 2011

Original: English

---

### Seventeenth session

Kingston, Jamaica

11-22 July 2011

### **Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the Center for Oceans Law and Policy — University of Virginia School of Law**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. On 11 January 2011, the Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia School of Law, submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting the status of observer to the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter with the additional information provided by the applicant is contained in the annex to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly which have demonstrated their interest in matters under the consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 under the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly, and upon the invitation of the President and subject to the approval by the Assembly may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities which are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the Secretariat in the quantities in the languages in which the statements are submitted.



## **Annex**

### **Letter dated 14 January 2011 from John Norton Moore, Director and Walter L. Brown Professor of Law to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority\***

The Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia School of Law, was founded in 1976 to support research, education and discussion of policy and legal issues relating to the oceans. The Center has a full-time staff and a regular programme of conferences, publications and other educational activities designed to promote peace and stability in the world's oceans. More detailed information is available on our website at [www.virginia.edu/colp](http://www.virginia.edu/colp).

For the past several years our Center has been an accredited non-governmental observer at the United Nations. We regularly send a representative to New York when law of the sea issues are discussed. We note rule 82 (e) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly allows the invitation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a "demonstrated interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly". Our Center and its personnel have demonstrated an acute interest in the work of the International Seabed Authority for three decades. This is evidenced by our annual programmes, publications and academic courses.

We respectfully request that our Center's request to be granted observer status in the International Seabed Authority be considered by the Assembly at its next session in 2011. Please let us know if there are any other procedures we need to follow in order to become an observer to the International Seabed Authority. We would, of course be pleased to provide any other information that you require.

Thank you for considering this request.

(Signed) John Norton **Moore**  
Director and Walter L. Brown Professor of Law

---

---

\* Reproduced as received, in the original language of submission.