



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA  
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

## Press Release

### THE TRIBUNAL DEEPLY REGRETS TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF JUDGE THOMAS MENSAH

It is with profound regret that the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea announces the death of Judge and inaugural President of the Tribunal, Thomas A. Mensah (Ghana), in London this week.

Judge Mensah was elected Member of the Tribunal on 1 October 1996 and served as a judge until 2005. As the first President of the Tribunal, Judge Mensah greatly contributed to the establishment of the Tribunal in its inaugural years.

Following his departure from the Tribunal in 2005, Judge Mensah served as Judge *ad hoc* before the Tribunal in the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh/ Myanmar)*, *The "ARA Libertad" Case (Argentina v. Ghana), Provisional Measures*, and the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean (Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire)*. He also served as a member of various arbitral tribunals.

Judge Mensah held degrees from the University of Ghana, the University of London, and Yale University Law School, where he obtained his JSD in 1964. In 1968, he began his prestigious career at the International Maritime Organization, where he became Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Legal Affairs in 1981. From 1991 to 1992, Judge Mensah was also Special Advisor on Environmental Law and Institutions for the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi. He was appointed Professor of Law and Director of the Law of the Sea Institute at the University of Hawaii and to the Cleveringa Chair at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. He further acted as High Commissioner of Ghana to the Republic of South Africa from 1995 to 1996.

Judge Mensah was a member of the *Institut de droit international*, a titular member of the *Comité Maritime International*, a member of the Advisory Council of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and a member of the Standing Committee on Maritime Arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. He published extensively on international law, law of the sea and maritime law.

The Tribunal pays tribute to Judge Mensah's work as President and Judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and to his noteworthy contribution to the development of international law of the sea.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: [press@itlos.org](mailto:press@itlos.org)