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## **Pleadings, Minutes of Public Sitings and Documents/Memoires, Proces-Verbaux des Audiences Publiques et Documents**

*International Tribunal For The Law Of The Sea Staff*  
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The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is an international court with competence to settle disputes concerning the law of the sea. It is a central forum for the settlement of disputes relating to the interpretation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea under the comprehensive system for the settlement of disputes established by the Convention. The Tribunal has exclusive and binding jurisdiction in certain instances. The Tribunal's Seabed Disputes Chamber has compulsory jurisdiction over conflicts concerning seabed activities. The Tribunal is open to States, international organizations and other entities. This volume contains the texts of written pleadings, the minutes of public sitings and other documents from the prompt release proceedings in the M/V "SAIGA" case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea) in their original language. The Orders and Judgment made in this case have been published in Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders 1997 (ITLOS Reports

1997).

"In a world where it seems that it is only on aeroplanes - and then, not always - that one is cut off from internet access, hard copy texts may appear unnecessary. One's view on this issue is a matter of personal preference. I can only say that, as one who thinks legal research is closer to bricolage than to precision engineering, it is the ability to browse and to read legal texts like a narrative that is important, rather than the ability to locate specific passages and excise them for later use. For that, books seem to me simply to be better. They also have a permanence and authority that offer some guarantee against accidental or malicious alteration of the text, or even unauthorised mutations of the text such as the outrageous spoof WTO site published at <http://www.gatt.org>. And, not least of the considerations, every permanent tribunal deserves the dignity of a set of its own reports upon the shelf. These publications do their job well. They are handsomely produced, easy on the eye, and exude a discreet hint of gravitas appropriate to the standing of the ITLOS. Tribunal and publisher alike can take real pride in them." Vaughan Lowe, "The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals: A Practitioners' Journal," (2002). In a world where it seems that it is only on aeroplanes - and then, not always - that one is cut off from internet access, hard copy texts may appear unnecessary. One's view on this issue is a matter of personal preference. I can only say that, as one who thinks legal research is closer to bricolage than to precision engineering, it is the ability to browse and to read legal texts like a narrative that is important, rather than the ability to locate specific passages and excise them for later use. For that, books seem to me simply to be better. They also have a permanence and authority that offer some guarantee against accidental or malicious alteration of the text, or even unauthorised mutations of the text such as the outrageous spoof WTO site published at <http://www.gatt.org>. And, not least of the considerations, every permanent tribunal deserves the dignity of a set of its own reports upon the shelf. These publications do their job well. They are handsomely produced, easy on the eye, and exude a discreet hint of gravitas appropriate to the standing of the ITLOS. Tribunal and publisher alike can take real pride in them.' Vaughan Lowe, The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals: A Practitioners' Journal, (2002).