

Thirty Second

Assistance from the Trust Fund was provided in relation to six members of the Commission for the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions, upon the request of the nominating States concerned, to facilitate their participation in these sessions Thus, as at 31 May 2022, the balance of the

As to the *Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, to attend meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea*, a contribution has been received from New Zealand. As at 31 May 2022 the Fund balance available for disbursement was estimated to be **\$52,000**.

The Trust Fund was used to defray the cost of participation of three panelists from developing countries as well as the travel costs of one other representative of a developing country at the twenty-second meeting of the Informal Consultative Process held last week. After factoring in these expenditures, the balance of the Trust Fund will once again be low.

~~In the Trust Fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and an intergovernmental conference on the development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.~~ Contributions have been received from Finland, France, Ireland, New Zealand and the European Union. Thus, as at 31 May 2022, the Fund balance available for disbursement was estimated to be **\$219,000**.

I am pleased to announce that, in respect of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Conference, the Trust Fund facilitated the participation of 14 Delegates from developing countries, eight of whom

receipt of a contribution and based on the instructions provided in the bank transfer, the Division will be notified that there is a possible contribution to a trust fund administered by it. The Division will then be requested to provide correspondence from the donor confirming the sum and the intent of the contribution. It is only when such confirmation is provided that funds are transferred to the specific trust fund account and are reflected in its balance.

It is thus very important to ensure that the intended beneficiary trust fund is clearly annotated in the transfer order and that related correspondence is received by the Division on a timely basis. Otherwise, it may take time for the funds to be properly allocated to the correct trust fund. Delays in allocation of the funds hampers effectively administer trust funds, including with respect to reporting on fund balances and acknowledging contributions in a timely manner.

Madam President,
Distinguished delegates

In conclusion, the Secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Meeting to the appeal, contained in General Assembly resolution 76/72, addressed to States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the Trust Funds. Allow me to note in this regard, Madam President, that even small contributions, if made regularly by a large number of States, could contribute effectively to achieving the purposes of the Trust Funds.

I thank you for your attention.