

Statement to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
on the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship

20 October 2023

[Check against delivery]

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to appear before you today for the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to provide you with an update on the implementation of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

In its resolution 72/73 of 5 December 2017, the Assembly recognized, and expressed its

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As of October 2023 , 34 fellows from 30 developing countries have undertaken the HSA Memorial Fellowship . Of these, 16 are women and 18 are men. We have seen many of them return to New York, taking active roles on behalf of their

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It is now more important than ever for developing countries to build and maintain the capacity to actively participate in ocean-related processes and effectively implement international law of the sea, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, its three implementing Agreements and other related international instruments. Capacity-building is also crucial for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14; and the commitments under the Paris Agreement, which noted the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems.

Thus, it is critical that awards under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship are implemented continuously and consistently. This implies that the necessary funding is made available. In this regard, as at 31 July, the Certified net assets of the Trust Fund, minus programme support costs, were approximately US\$ 120,000. Estimated costs of one fellowship can be as high as US\$ 75,000 depending on the location of the academic portion of the fellowship. I would note that, due to insufficient funds, no awards were made from 2007 to 2009, and in 2014 and in 2016. In addition, owing to insufficient funds in 2017, only a partial award was made.

For your information , the call for applications for the next cycle of applications for the 2024 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship has been issued and the deadline for applying is 12 November 2023.