

Should the circumstances require it, the utilization of an arbitral tribunal would not only be a practical solution to the problem at hand but be evidence of member states' determination to govern their activities by adherence to the principle of the rule of law in international relations. In this context, we are grateful for the useful information contained in the Secretary General's report (A/42/915 of 10 February) and its addendum of 25 February, 1988. For our part, we have a strong and enduring commitment to international dispute settlement procedures and mechanisms, especially when they are part and parcel of an international treaty or legal instrument.

I wish to close with the hope that our work here will avoid politicization and reference to wider issues. We should instead seek the broadest possible consensus on the legal issues involved and reaffirm respect for the rule of law in international relations.