

International Seabed Authority

Press Release



Fourteenth Session
Kingston Jamaica
26 May – 6 June 2008

Biographical Note

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27 May 2008

MRS. LIESBETH LIJNZAAD (NETHERLANDS) ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SEABED COUNCIL FOR 2008

Mrs. Liesbeth Lijnzaad (Netherlands), who was on Monday, 26 May 2008 elected President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority for its fourteenth session, is the Head of the International Law Division of her country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she has worked since 1994. She is primarily involved with issues concerning the law of the sea and international humanitarian law. She is the head of her country's delegation to the current session of the Authority.

Born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in 1960, Mrs. Lijnzaad studied history and law at the University of Amsterdam. She holds masters' degrees in international law (1985) and in Netherlands law (1987). In 1994, she received a doctorate on a dissertation published that year under the title Reservations to UN Human Rights Treaties: Ratify and Ruin?.

From 1986 to 1994 she lectured in international law at the University of Maastricht. Mrs. Lijnzaad has twice chaired the European Union's law of the sea working group (COMAR) on behalf of the Netherlands and Luxemburg (1997 and 2004-2005). From 2005 to 2006 she was chair of the legal working group for the International Commission for the International Tracing Service.

Mrs. Lijnzaad has published articles on the sources of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law. Her publications also include books on State reservations to treaties and on the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

This is the second time that Mrs Lijnzaad has been elected to lead one of the Authority's bodies, having served as President of the Assembly at the sixth session in 2000.

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