

**Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and  
Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)  
Invite you to a  
Virtual Informal Discussion on  
Why it is Urgent to Register and Publish Maritime Zone Information in View of Rising  
Seas  
29 October 2021, 1:15-2:30 pm (New York)**

**Concept Note**

**Objective**

To provide information on the relationship between sea-level rise and maritime zones and the consequent need to deposit charts or lists of geographical coordinates of points with the United Nations Secretary-General.

are particularly acute, especially on low-lying island nations who face the dangers of sea-level rise.

Pursuant to article 5 and article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), with some exceptions, the outer limits of maritime zones are measured from the low-water lines along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the relevant coastal States (also known as normal baselines) or from straight baselines. Therefore, such baselines are important factors for establishing the maritime zones of a state.

Pursuant to UNCLOS, States are required to deposit charts or lists of geographical coordinates of po

In 2021, in their Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate-Change related Sea-level rise, the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) proclaimed that the maritime zones of PIF Members, as established and notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with UNCLOS, and the rights and entitlements that flow from them, shall continue to apply, without reduction, notwithstanding any physical changes connected to climate change-related sea-level rise.

Additionally, in the 2021 Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Leaders Declaration, members of the alliance expressed their will to see the continuity of maritime zones and the rights and entitlements that flow from them without reduction once such maritime zones are established and notified to the UNSG, notwithstanding any physical changes connected to climate change-related sea-level rise.

Similarly, on its 78<sup>th</sup> Conference, the International Law Association (ILA) took the position that baselines determined in accordance with UNCLOS should not be required to be recalculated should sea-level change affect the geographical reality of the coastline in the interest of