



# Assembly

Distr.: General  
10 May 2016

Original: English

---

## Twenty-second session

Kingston, Jamaica

11-22 July 2016

### **Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982**

#### **Note by the Secretary-General**

1. The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority is invited to note that Nicola Smith (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) resigned from the Finance Committee with effect from 29 April 2016. She had been elected by the Assembly at its twentieth session, in 2014, to complete the term of Chris Whomersley, who had been elected as a member of the Committee for a term of five years beginning on 1 January 2012.

2. Section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 provides that, in the event of the death, incapacity or resignation of a member of the Finance Committee prior to the expiration of the term of office, the Assembly is to elect for the remainder of the term a member from the same geographical region or group of States.

3. In accordance with section 9 of the annex to the Agreement, the Committee is to be composed of 15 members with appropriate qualifications relevant to financial matters. Members of the Committee are to be elected by the Assembly.

4. By a letter dated 29 April 2016, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom informed the Secretary-General of the Authority of the nomination of Ahila Sornarajah to fill the vacant seat on the Committee left by Ms. Smith for the remainder of her term ending on 31 December 2016. The curriculum vitae of Ms. Sornarajah is contained in the annex to the present note.



## Annex

### Curriculum vitae\*

#### Ahila Sornarajah (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

##### Education

Georgetown University Law School, Washington, D.C. August 2008-June 2009  
LL.M in International Legal Studies (Distinction)  
Fellow of the Institute of International Economic Law

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom October 1997-June 2000  
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Law

##### Experience

Foreign and Commonwealth Office April 2011-present

##### Currently First Secretary (Legal Affairs) at the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations in New York

- Lead legal adviser on law of the sea issues in the General Assembly and the Security Council
- Mission lead on piracy issues for the Security Council
- Member of the Principal Donors Group of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Oversight Committee of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Bureau of the International Criminal Court requiring the consideration of the budget of those bodies
- United Kingdom delegate to the Sixth Committee
- Provides legal advice on a variety of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions

##### Assistant Legal Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Legal Directorate, London

- Advised on the Syrian Arab Republic crisis, as well as counter-terrorism matters
- Advised on interventions in Alien Tort Statute cases before the United States Supreme Court
- Acted as European Court of Human Rights Agent in a number of cases, including on prisoner voting, the extraterritorial application of the European Convention on Human Rights (*Hassan*) and religious freedom (*Eweida and Chaplin*)

---

\* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

**Ministry of Justice, August 2009-April 2011**

Lawyer

- Advised on the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 across Whitehall, including delivering training to government lawyers
- Co-authored the Security and Legal Domain report commissioned by the Cabinet Office — a scan of the likely development of security-relevant international law frameworks in the next 5-15 years

**Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), August 2008-May 2009**

Research Assistant to Edith Brown Weiss (Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law)

**Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, April 2007-August 2008**

Lawyer

- Advised on the international trade of live animals and animal products and the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the United Kingdom, and drafted secondary legislation, including 10 rounds of complex legislation restricting the export of animals and animal products during the 2007 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak

**Treasury Solicitor's Department, London, August 2004-April 2007**

Litigator

**Hogan Lovells, London and Hong Kong, China, February 2002-February 2004**

Trainee Solicitor

**Other skills****Languages: Tamil (fluent), Spanish (functional), French (confident)**  

---