HELWUT TUERK (AUSTRIA)
PRESIDENT OF SEABED ASSEMBLY FOR 2015

Judge Helmut Tuerk (Austria) who was today elected President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority at its twenty-first session joined the Austrian Foreign Service in 1965 and up to 1993 held many posts in his country’s Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He served as Consulate General and Deputy Legal Advisor in Hong Kong, and Deputy Head of mission in the Embassy in Bonn. Between 1993 and 2005 he was Ambassador to the United States of America, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the Holy See, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and the Republic of San Marino. He also served as Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States. In 2005 he was appointed Judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and was the Tribunal's vice president from 2008 to 2011.

Born in Linz, Austria, 24 April 1941, Mr. Tuerk was educated at the University of Vienna and the College of Europe, Bruges. He served on numerous committees/bodies concerned with Seabed issues including the Seabed Committee, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, International Conference on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Mr. Tuerk has written a number of publications including works on land-locked countries and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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