

Application for observer status at International Seabed Authority

To,
The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority,
International Seabed Authority.

Subject: For application for observer status at International Seabed Authority by Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

A. Information about the organization

1. **Name of organization-** Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, INDIA.
2. **Address of headquarters-** Attalika Avenue, Knowledge Corridor, Koba (Sub P. O.), Gandhinagar-382426, Gujarat, INDIA
3. **Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters-** Not Applicable
4. **Telephone number-** 91- 7923276611/12
5. **Fax number-** Not available.
6. **Email address-** vc@gnlu.ac.in; registrar@gnlu.ac.in
7. **Name, title and contact details of focal point-** Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar, Director, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, email: vc@gnlu.ac.in.

8. Background information on the organization-

Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) is a statutory university established by the Government of Gujarat under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. The University is recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) (2f & 12B). The University is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), International Association of Law Schools (IALS), Asian Law Institute (ASLI) and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. The GNLU Act 2003 proclaims that GNLU, "shall be established to advance and disseminate learning and knowledge of law and legal processes and their role in national development: to develop in the students and the research scholars sense of responsibility to serve society in the field of law by developing skills in regard to advocacy,

legal services, legislation, parliamentary practice, law reforms and such other matters; to make law and legal processes efficient instruments of social development; and to promote interdisciplinary study of law in relation to management, technology, international cooperation and development."

9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority? - No.

10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep -sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?- No.

11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations- No

12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

Gujarat National Law University is having developed a rich culture of publications. More than 500 publication including papers, articles, books and book chapters are there. There are numerous publications in reputed publication houses and journals. (List is enclosed with the document with prominent publications as Annexure I for reference).

B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.

During the visit of His Excellency Michael W. Lodge Secretary-General, ISA and his delegation at Gujarat National Law University from 13 to 15 February 2023 as mentioned by His Excellency Mr. Lodge that the association between the ISA and GNLU can be extended to the observer status; the University is willing to contribute to the research and analysis activities of the matters related to seabed mining, proposing suggestions based upon the research activities and academic activities in the concerned domain. The faculty

and research staff, scholars and the students of Gujarat National Law University can actively participate in the activities and deliberations of the ISA.

Being a Research Based Teaching University the Gujarat National Law University has broad spectrum of legal and multidisciplinary research, teaching and extension in relevant disciplines.

The Government of India is dedicated towards ensuring lasting peace and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and is committed towards upgrading the skills of its nationals in support of the effective implementation of UNCLOS and associated legal instruments. As one of the three institutions established by UNCLOS, ISA recognises the importance of rule of law in ocean affairs as well as the importance of strengthened multilateralism as well as the need to design and implement dedicated capacity development activities that address the needs of its members, particularly developing States.

GNLU by virtue of its focus in the field of law and legal research provides teaching and research infrastructure and capacities which could serve the strategic objectives of good ocean governance, respect of rule of law in ocean affairs and capacity development. Within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the ISA's Strategic Plan and High-level Action Plan for 2019-2023, adopted by the Assembly of ISA in 2018 and 2019 respectively, as well as the ISA's Capacity Development Strategy adopted in 2022, the ISA Secretariat and GNLU intends to foster activities related to capacity development in the field of Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement as well as other relevant deep-sea related discipline with direct connection with the mandate and functions of ISA.

After granting of observatory status, GNLU can undertake organization of interactions, including lectures, studies, projects, dialogues, workshops, conferences, seminars, study courses, symposia, programmes and publications that support collaborative research, dialogue among relevant stakeholders and dissemination of information; promote specific activities and initiatives that recognize and facilitate the role and participation of women in the law of the sea; invite each other to attend meetings, conferences, and committees, share relevant information, best practices, networks, knowledge, and expertise; and establish such other forms of cooperation as they may mutually decide upon in writing.

Gujarat National Law University would promote and facilitate research, teaching and other knowledge building activities promoted by International Seabed Authority such as Environmental Impact Assessments and activities related to such initiatives through research, promoting dissemination, exchange and sharing of scientific data and deep-sea research outputs and increasing deep-sea literacy, policy suggestions for addressing the issues and needs of Indian industry through research and panel discussions, capacity building initiative of ISA can be supported through certificate courses in Seabed Mining etc.

14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.

Gujarat National Law University offers subjects like Private and Public International law, Law of the Sea and research activities related to the field of Law of the Sea addressing the issues of Marine Pollution, Marine Biodiversity, Seabed Mining and related aspects of deep sea mining, ocean governance and laws related to maritime, marine protected areas etc. The University intends to conduct teaching, training, capacity building activities along with research activities in the field of maritime. Policy research on Deep Sea Mining, legal roadmap for exploration and exploitation of Polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean, research projects in the areas like IMO's Sulphur cap mandate and its implications in Gujarat, Reviewing multiple Acts related to maritime, conduction of GNLU International Maritime Academy on the theme of Blue Economy, IUU Fishing and other aspects in different editions are a few activities in related domains of maritime.

GNLU through its different activities and initiatives always promotes, protects and nurture the gender equality and has a Centre for Women and Child Rights and a Gender Sensitization Committee fully dedicated for such initiative. The university is appreciative of the S.H.E. (See Her Excel) initiative of ISA.

15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.

The GNLU by virtue of its focus in the field of law and legal research provides teaching and research infrastructure and capacities which could serve the strategic objectives of good ocean governance, respect of rule of law in ocean affairs and capacity development. GNLU is well connected and respected in different Government bodies, academic institutions and industries hence the specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants can effectively be done through GNLU. GNLU also intends to organize certificate courses and introduce modules based upon Seabed Mining to spread awareness and build knowledge in the domain.

16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.

The Gujarat National Law University is having a well-established research environment and rich experience in capacity building, training and teaching. University is having a robust research teaching training and extension infrastructure and trained human resources. The Gujarat National Law University is directly working with Government Departments, academic institutions and the industry.

The institution is having a rich experience in working with the Government of India's Ministry of Earth and Sciences, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice and other ministries along with different academic and research institutes.

GNLU has signed MoUs with many foreign institutions for student exchange, research and other co-operative and collaborative programmes such as

- United Nation Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR, Geneva, Switzerland),
- World Trade Institute (WTI, Bern, Switzerland),
- University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia),
- University of Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- University of Rome, La Sapienza (Italy)

Being situated at the state of Gujarat which is a coastal state with maximum number of ports in India is also an advantageous position for conducting research related to marine biodiversity and marine environment (many marine protected areas are situated in Gujarat) and seabed mining activities.

A list of few activities of the university is enclosed herewith for reference as Annexure II.

17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).

With an aim to become a Research Based Teaching University, GNLU has started a variety of initiatives for faculty, students and research professionals such as research projects, research publications, group publications, in-house publications, fellowships, student research development council, collaboration with national & international institutes and industries and centres of excellence etc.

Through the unique Research and Development Cell of Gujarat National Law University constituted with the Head Research and Development Cell, Research Council and Research Cadre having 19 Centres of Excellence and 12 Endowed Research Programmes/ Chairs the university works to promote the interest and reputation of research activities among the faculty members and students and to ensure that the research activities of the division support the university's objective to be a research based teaching university, to develop consistent divisional research strategies to deliver high quality research.

Institute intends to promote research and certificate courses to contribute to the capacity and knowledge building in different domains of seabed mining and law of sea through collaborative activities of its centres and research chairs. GNLU has a pool of work done in the field of marine environment, maritime commercial laws, blue economy, policy research on deep sea mining and maritime security, ocean governance related domains of law of the sea.

Annexure I

List of few publications:

Name of the Book	Publisher	Author(s)
Students with Disabilities in Higher Education Institutions	Red'shine Publication Pvt. Ltd, Gujarat (2018 Edition), (ISBN: 978-93-87822-86-3)	Nageshwara Rao Ambati
Cities of India: A Legal History	Eastern Book Company, Lucknow (2018), (ISBN: 9789387487994)	Richa R. Mulchandani
International Litigation by and against India	EBC (2018), (ISBN: 9789387487819)	Bimal N. Patel
Acing Internships A Practical Guide	EBC (2018), (ISBN: 978-93-8748-782-6)	Joshua Aston
Contract Law for Managers	EBC (2017), (Volume 1 - ISBN: 987881938547205 and Volume 2 - ISBN: 987881938547212)	Joshua Aston
Beginner's Handbook on Corporate Social Responsibility	Ruby Publication (2017), (ISBN: 978-93-82395-18-8)	Viral Pandya
Microfinance and Self Help Groups: A Non-Financial Perspective	Ruby Publication (2017), (ISBN: 978-819-330-683-3)	Viral Pandya
State Practice of India and the Development of International Law: Dynamic Interplay between Foreign Policy and Jurisprudence	Brill / Nijhoff, (ISBN: 9789004317000 E-ISBN: 9789004321335)	Bimal N. Patel
The World Court Reference Guide - Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the Permanent Court of International Justice and the International Court of Justice (1922-2000)	Brill / Nijhoff, (ISBN: 9789041119070)	Bimal N. Patel
The World Court Reference Guide and Case-Law Digest - Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice (2001-2010) and Case-Law Digest (1992-2010)	Brill / Nijhoff, (ISBN: 9789004261877 E-ISBN: 9789004261891)	Bimal N. Patel

“Trafficking of Women and Children: Article 7 of the Rome Statute”(I Edition)	Oxford University Press (2016), (ISBN: 978-0199468171)	Joshua Aston
Law Relating to Electronic Contracts (II Edition) LexisNexis, Gurgaon (2016) (ISBN 978-93-5143-713-0)	LexisNexis, Gurgaon (2016), (ISBN: 978-93-5143-713-0)	Ravindra Kumar Singh
Issues on Arbitration	Read Worthy, New Delhi (2016), (ISBN: 10:93-5018-398-6)	Vikas Gandhi
Indian Economy	New Century Publications (2016)	Ranita Nagar
Political Science I	LexisNexis, Gurgaon (2016), (ISBN: 9789351437024)	William Nunes, Aruna Kumar Malik & Ravi Saxena
Criminology	Vikas Publications, Noida (2015), (ISBN: 978-93-259-8974-0)	Anjani Singh Tomar
Law Relating to Electronic Contracts	LexisNexis, Gurgaon (2014), (ISBN: 978-93-5143-057-5)	Ravindra Kumar Singh
Medical Ethics	MG University, Kottayam (2014), (ISBN 978-3-25-7910-9)	Anjani Singh Tomar and Amit Kumar Kashyap
Banking Law Eazy Cases	EBC Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow (2014),	Bimal N. Patel, Dolly Jabbal and Prachi V. Motiyani
Responsibility of International Organisations towards other International Organisations: Law and Practice of the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2013), (ISBN: 978-9350289815)	Bimal N. Patel
Security Dilemma of Sri Lanka: A Conceptual Analysis	Ruby Press, New Delhi (2013), (ISBN: 978-93-82395-02-7)	William Nunes
Intellectual Property Laws	MG University, Kottayam (2013), (ISBN: 978-93-259-7328-2)	Anjani Singh Tomar
Human Rights Standard for Right to Health	Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi (2012), (ISBN: 978-81-8069-854-5).	Aruna Kumar Malik

Law Development Socio Economic Policy	Eastern Book Company, Lucknow (2012), (ISBN : 9350287234)	Bimal N. Patel & Mamata Biswal
Restructuring the Indian Police System: Need for Accountability and Efficiency	Lambert Academic Publishers, Germany (2011), (ISBN: 978-38-4731-399-1)	Joshua Aston
Disaster Management	APH Publishing Corporation, New Delhi (2010) (ISBN: 788-1-3130-911-3)	Ranita Nagar
Red Biotechnology	Astral International Publishers (2019)(ISBN: 978-93-5124-962-7)	Anjani Singh Tomar, Viralkumar B. Mandaliya
Green Biotechnology	Astral International Publishers (2019)(ISBN: 978-93-5124-964-1)	Anjani Singh Tomar, Bindu Vijay, Viralkumar B. Mandaliya
Purple Biotechnology	Astral International Publishers (2019)(ISBN: 978-93-5124-963-4)	Viralkumar B. Mandaliya, Anjani Singh Tomar
Law and Economics Market, Non-market and Network Transactions	Vernon Press (2018)(ISBN: 978-1622734528)	Ranita Nagar, Panta Murali Prasad
Sustainable Development and India Convergence of Law, Economics, Science, and Politics	Gujarat National Law University Faculty Publication (2018)ISBN:9780199474622	Bimal N. Patel, Ranita Nagar
The Companies Act, 2013- Key Conceptual Transformation	LexisNexis, (2017) ISBN: 978-81-3125-221-5	Bimal N. Patel, Dharmishta Raval, Mamata Biswal
Indian Ocean And Maritime Security: Competition, Cooperation And Threat	Routledge, London & New York, (2017) ISBN: 978-11-387438-9-2	Bimal N. Patel, Aruna Kumar Malik, William Nunes
Law and Economics in India : Understanding and Practice	Taylor & Francis Ltd, London, UK (2016) (ISBN 978113868556)	Bimal N. Patel, Ranita Nagar, Hitesh Thakker
Law And Economics: Breaking New Grounds	Eastern Book Company (2017) ISBN: 978-93-5145-462-5	Ranita Nagar
Indian Economy	New Century Publications(2016)	Ranita Nagar
Science, Technology and Law	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (2016)(ISBN 9788191038972)	Shobhalata Udupudi, Ranita Nagar, Thomas Mathew,

		Bindu Vijay, Heena Goswami
'Identifying and Comparing the Trends in International Contract Laws and Probing the Critical Issues for Multinational Contracting Parties'.	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (2016) (ISBN 9789384936020)	Joshua Aston
Food Security: Cross Country Policies and Experiences	New Century Publications, New Delhi (2016) (ISBN 978-81-7708-417-7)	Ranita Nagar
MCQ on Environmental Law	Eastern Book Company (2015)	Bimal N. Patel, Prachi Motiyani
Towards a Food Secure India	Ruby Press & Co., New Delhi (2015) (ISBN 978-93-82395-58-4)	Ranita Nagar
Sports and Legislature	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2015) (ISBN 978-81-910389-2-7)	Bimal N. Patel, Richa Sharma
Banking Law and Negotiable Instruments	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2015) (ISBN 978-93-5145-268-3)	Bimal N. Patel, Dolly Jabbal, Prachi Motiyani
Law of the Sea: International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Jurisprudence: Case Commentary, Case-Law Digest and Reference Guide (1994-2014)	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2015) (ISBN 978-93-514529-7-3)	Bimal N. Patel
Banking Law	Eastern Book Company (2014) (ISBN 978-93-514511-8-1)	Bimal N. Patel, Dolly Jabbal, Prachi Motiyani
International Contracts, Jurisdictional Issues and Global Commercial and Investment Governance	Gujarat National Law University (2014) (ISBN 978-93-84936-01-3)	Bimal N. Patel, Mamata Biswal, Joshua Aston
Economic Analysis of Law: An Indian Perspective	LexisNexis (2014) (ISBN 978-93-5143-027-8).	Bimal N. Patel, Ranita Nagar, Hitesh Thakkar
Food Security Law Interdisciplinary Perspectives	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2014) (ISBN 93-5145-026-0)	Bimal N. Patel, Ranita Nagar

MCQ on Banking Law	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2014)(ISBN 978-93-5145-081-8)	Bimal N. Patel, Dolly Jabbal, Prachi Motiyani
Maritime Security and Piracy (Global Issues, Challenges and Solutions)	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2012) (ISBN 93-5028-708-0).	Bimal N. Patel, Hitesh Thakkar
Law, Development and Socio-Economic Policy (Challenges in the 21st Century India)	Eastern Book Company, New Delhi (2012) (ISBN 93-5028-723-4)	Bimal N. Patel, Mamata Biswal
Explaining and Understanding Legal and Interdisciplinary Research Methodology in India	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (2012) (ISBN 978-81-910389-8-9)	Bimal N. Patel
Contemporary Challenges and prospects for Strengthening the Rule of Law and Democracy in the Midst of Anarchy and Chaos in the Indian State - Separation of Powers, Judicial Accountability and Relevant Provisions of the Indian Constitution Revisited	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (2012) (ISBN 978-81-910389-3-4)	Bimal Patel, Jaya Hemnani
Journey of women Empowerment: Miles to go	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (2012) (ISBN 978-81-910389-5-8)	Bimal N. Patel, Mamata Biswal, Anand Kumar Tripathi
Live-in Relationship and Surrogacy: legal Implication and Social Issues	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (2012) (ISBN 978-81-910389-6-5)	Bimal N. Patel, Mamata Biswal, Anand Kumar Tripathi
Indo-US Relations: Special reference to Post Obama visit	Gujarat National Law University, 2010 (ISBN 978-81-910389-4-1)	Bimal N. Patel, William Nunes, Aruna Kumar Malik
'Geographical Indications of Indian Handlooms: Between Legal Right and Real Right',	Routledge, Taylor and Francis, UK, ISBN 978-1-032-33247-5	Dr. Nidhi Buch
Poverty and Deprivation	Sage	Dr. Ambati Nageswara Rao
Routledge Handbook of Poverty in the Global South, Impact of Globalisation on Poverty in India: Cross-Country Comparative Analysis with China and Indonesia	Routledge, ISBN: 978-1-032-01529-3	Ms. Dhanya.S

Book titled, "Globalisation of Professional Legal Education: Constitutional Conspectus" Chapter titled "Affordability of the Maritime Legal Education in India: A Challenge for Indian Academics and Maritime Field for Coping with Globalised Professional Legal Education"	Bloomsbury India, ISBN:978-93-54350-82-524681097531	Ms. Pratikalpa Sharma & Dr. Saira Gori
Role of Authorised users in adding efficacy to GI protection in India: Issues and Challenges in an edited book titled "Geographical Indication Protection in India: The Evolving Paradigm	Springer, ISBN 978-981-19-4295-2 ISBN 978-981-19-4296-9 (eBook)	Dr. Nidhi Buch
Work and Life of a Professional Social Worker, Book chapter-Trust with Social Work: A Journey Worth Reflectio	Indian Society of Professional Social Work (ISPSW), ISBN: 978-81-954684-4-7	Apoorva Patel
Ensuring Integrity: Lessons from Judiciary; Landmark Judgments on Anti-Corruption, Public Servant Misconduct and Related Aspects.	Thomson Reuters, ISBN: 978-93-93702-71-5	Sangeeta Singh, Sanjeevi Shanthakumar Tarun, Aditya R. Gor

Annexure II

List of few research, publication and other relevant activities

Research Activities and Publications		
1.	A critical analysis of preparedness for IMO's Sulphur Cap Mandate 2020, and its impacts with regard to the selected Gujarat Ports: The Mundra Port./ Government of Gujarat	Completed as Government of Gujarat funded Project
2.	Environmental law Capacity Building Project of World Bank of executed by CEERA, National Law School of India University, Bangalore.	Completed
3.	Policy Research on 'Resource Mining and Law of the Sea – Issues and Challenges for India'.	Completed
4.	ABD- Knowledge support Technical Assistance: Strengthening the capacity for Environment and Climate Change Laws in Asia and Pacific.	Completed
5.	An Empirical Analysis of Impact of Food insecurity and Hunger on Nutrition and Right to Health of Urban Poor Living in State of Gujarat” Funded by IGIDR-SPANDAN Grants and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Completed
6.	Draft Deep Seabed Mining Act of India	Submitted to the Ministry of Earth and Sciences, Government of India
7.	Private Maritime Security Companies Regulations	Draft submitted to the Ministry of Shipping and Transportation, Government of India
8.	Blue Economy Road Map: Techno- Legal Policy and Regulatory Framework	Proposal submitted to the Ministry of Earth and Sciences, Government of India
9.	Maritime Manual of India	Prepared (under publication)
10.	International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Jurisprudence 1994-214: Commentary, Case- Law Digest and Reference Guide (Forwarded by H.E. Former Judge Peter Tomka, President, ICJ and H.E. Judge David Attard, Former Judge, ITLOS)	Published by Eastern Book Company, 2015
11.	Maritime Security and Piracy: Global Issues, Challenges and Solutions by Bimal N. Patel and Hitesh Thakkar, Forwarded by Admiral Nirmal Verma, Chief of Naval Staff	Published by Eastern Book Company, 2012
12.	GNLU International Maritime Academy 1- 8 Editions	Organised with Themes like Indian Ocean Region- Ports Security, Preventing, Reducing &

		Controlling-IUU Fishing and Marine Environment Pollution, Blue economy, Maritime Security etc. in collaboration with US Naval War College
13.	GNLU Trilateral Legal Talks: India-USA-Japan	Organised in 2018
14.	Training Programme on Maritime Commercial Law and Practice	11 - 15 September 2018