

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Neeru Chadha elected as the first Indian Woman Judge to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

14 June 2017, New York

Dr. Neeru Chadha first Indian elected as a Judge Tribunal for the (ITLOS), for the 2017-2026, were held today at in New York. She ever woman its two decades of there have been a

The Hamburg-ITLOS (itlos.org), 1996, is one of mechanisms Convention on the (UNCLOS) that in 1994.

Dr. Chadha was from four

two seats in the Asia Pacific Group (APG) to be elected in the first round of voting itself. She also secured the highest ever votes obtained by an Indian candidate to the ITLOS. Elections for a total of seven seats were being held. The candidate from Thailand won the other APG seat in the second round.

Dr. Neeru Chadha is a distinguished lawyer and one the leading experts on different aspects of international law in India. Dr. Chadha has the distinction of



has become the woman to be to the International Law of the Sea nine year term elections for which the United Nations is only the second Judge of ITLOS in existence, where total of 40 Judges.

based 21-member established in dispute settlement under the UN Law of the Sea entered into force

the only candidate candidates for the

serving as the first woman Chief Legal Adviser to the Government of India. She has advised the Government on diverse issues relating to the law of sea involving interpretation of various provisions of UNCLOS. These range from determining the extent of coastal state's jurisdiction in different maritime zones, maritime delimitation with neighbouring states, legal issues relating to submissions on extended continental shelf, baselines, applications for exploration of minerals in the seabed and piracy.

Dr. Chadha has extensive international arbitration and litigation experience, having served as Agent for the Government of India in its maritime delimitation case with Bangladesh and the case concerning the Enrica Lexie Incident - both Annex VII arbitrations under UNCLOS. She has served as Agent before the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament with Marshall Islands.

Dr. Chadha has also represented Government of India in various other multilateral meetings and conferences in the United Nations, AALCO (Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation), UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law), UNCITRAL (UN Commission on International Trade Law), Hague Conference, SAARC and BIMSTEC on subjects relating to human rights, humanitarian law, international trade, international terrorism and international criminal law.

She has also represented India in numerous bilateral negotiations on issues relating to maritime delimitation, trans-boundary Rivers, international trade & investment protection, defence cooperation and disarmament.

Dr. Chadha's independent judgment and honed expertise is recognized at both home and abroad.