

## Discurso del Presidente del Tribunal Vladimir Golitsyn

"It is a great honour for me to greet you today on behalf of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. We are honoured and pleased to have you all as our guests.

The gift of the model of the ARA Libertad is a testament to Argentina's commitment to the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Tribunal is deeply grateful for this gift, which calls us to reflect not only on Argentina's contribution to the international rule of law but also on several important aspects of the role of the Tribunal itself.

Excellencies, distinguished guests,

As you may be aware, last year the Tribunal celebrated its 20th anniversary. Over the course of several commemorative events, the contribution of the Tribunal to the development of the law of sea and the future role of the Tribunal was examined. The ARA Libertad case illustrates how the Tribunal can be of service to States as well as the fundamental role played by States like Argentina in assuring the realisation of a peaceful regime for the oceans.

The presence of the captain and crew of the ARA Libertad here today emphasises the importance of the peaceful settlement of sea-related disputes and the real life impact of the adjudicative function carried out by the Tribunal.

The gift to the Tribunal also bears testament to Argentina's rich contribution to the development of the law of the sea.

A key aspect of this contribution was the work of Hugo Caminos, a distinguished Argentinian scholar, professor and diplomat, who served as Deputy Director of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. In this role, he acted as a major participant in the drafting of the modern law of the sea.

Hugo Caminos went on to serve as a member of the Tribunal from its establishment in 1996 until 2011, and played a significant part in shaping this institution and building its reputation for the efficient and effective disposition of cases.

This tradition of distinguished Argentinian service in the field of the law of the sea has been continued by Judge Elsa Kelly. Judge Kelly was appointed to the Tribunal in 2011, after a notable diplomatic career and we are grateful to have a judge of such calibre as our colleague on the bench.

It remains for me to reiterate the Tribunal's gratitude for this gift from Argentina and to express our appreciation for Argentina's continued support of the Tribunal and commitment to the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Thank you."