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by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, in particular t
relate to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and cas
the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. I will also provide in

of the Fund available for disbursement, which factors in the programme support costs, was estimated to be **US \$566,000**.

The projected funding

I will turn now to the *Voluntary trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*. Since the last Meeting of States Parties, contributions have been made by Finland and the Philippines. No applications for assistance have been received. As at 31 May 2021, the Fund balance available for disbursement was estimated to be **US \$166,000**.

With regard to the *Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea*, no contributions have been made since the last Meeting of States Parties. As at 31 May 2021, the Fund balance available for future disbursement was estimated to be **US \$110,000**.

We wish to note that, due to the impact of COVID19 pandemic, the 2020 fellowship was postponed to 2021, and that the 2020 fellow, Ms. Linda Bana of Ghana, had ultimately to conduct her fellowship virtually, given the continuing restrictions on international travel. I wish to recall, however, that for a number of years this fellowship Trust Fund has been chronically underfunded and without additional contributions it may continue to be so.

Concerning *the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects*, no contributions have been made since the last Meeting of States Parties. As at 31 May 2021 the Fund balance available for disbursement was estimated to be **US \$187,000**.

As to the *Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of assisting devem Bpa*.

Having provided an overview of the status of the trust funds administered by the Division, I would like to use this opportunity to recall the contributions process at the United Nations. All contributions made to a United Nations trust fund through inter-bank transfers are initially deposited against the United Nations general trust fund account. Upon receipt of a contribution and based on the instructions provided in the bank transfer, the Division will be notified that there is a possible contribution to a trust fund administered by it. The Division will then be requested to provide correspondence from the donor confirming the sum and the intent of the contribution. It is only when such confirmation is provided that funds are transferred to the specific trust fund account and are reflected in its balance.

It is thus very important to ensure that the intended beneficiary trust fund is clearly annotated in the transfer order and that related correspondence is received by the Division on a timely basis. Otherwise, it may take time for the funds to be properly allocated to the correct trust fund. Delays in allocation of the funds hampers the Division's ability to accurately and effectively administer trust funds, including with respect to reporting on fund balances and acknowledging contributions in a timely manner.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates

In conclusion, the Secretariat wishes to draw attention of the Meeting to the appeal, contained in General Assembly resolution 75/239, addressed to States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the Trust Funds. Allow me to note in this regard, Mitipetal ort7algizart-4.7(w m)2