

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNITED NATIONS COMPENSATION COMMISSION
HAS CONCLUDED ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, under the Presidency of Ambassador Michael Steiner (Germany), has concluded its fifty-fourth session today and approved awards of US\$2,906,694,267 for compensation. Representatives of Kuwait and Iraq addressed the fifteen-member Governing Council at its opening plenary meeting.

The Council approved two reports and recommendations of the "F4" Panel of Commissioners concerning claims from Governments in category "F":

Part one of the fourth instalment of category "F4" claims (environmental claims) involved eight claims filed by six Governments. Of these, five claims filed by three Governments were approved by the Council for compensation, with a total award value of US\$629,487,878; and

Part two of the fourth instalment of category "F4" claims (environmental claims) involved one claim filed by the Government of Kuwait, which was approved by the Council for compensation, with a total award value of US\$2,277,206,389.

The Council discussed a progress report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission. The report addressed the processing of claims and the payment of approved awards.

The Council also discussed the report of the Executive Secretary on the distribution by Governments and international organizations of payments to successful claimants, the transparency of the distribution process, and the return of undistributed funds.

The Council decided to hold its next regular session from 8 - 10 March 2005.

To date, the Commission has awarded compensation of approximately US\$51.8 billion, including the awards approved in the fifty-fourth session; approximately US\$18.8 billion of the amount awarded has been made available to Governments and international organizations for distribution to successful claimants in all categories of claims. In addition, pursuant to Governing

Council decision 227, up to US\$200 million will be made available for distribution to successful claimants in mid-January 2005.

The session just concluded was the last session for the delegations of Angola (Vice-President), Chile, Germany (President), Pakistan and Spain whose terms of office end on 31 December 2004. As of 1 January 2005, the five new members of the Security Council, Argentina, Denmark, Greece, Japan, and the United Republic of Tanzania, will be joining the Governing Council for two-year terms.

Further information about the Commission, including the text of Governing Council decisions and reports and recommendations of the panels of Commissioners, can be found on the United Nations Compensation Commission website located at www.uncc.ch.
