



Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2008

Original: English

Fourteenth session
Kingston, Jamaica
26 May-6 June 2008

Statement of the President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority on the work of the Council during the fourteenth session

1. The fourteenth session of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 26 May to 6 June 2008.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 129th meeting, on 26 May 2008, the Council adopted its agenda for the fourteenth session, contained in document ISBA/14/C/1. At the same meeting, the Council also decided to elect Christian Reichert (Germany) as a member of the Legal and Technical Commission for the remainder of the term of office of Michael Wiedicke-Hombach (Germany), who had resigned from the Commission.

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council

3. Also at the 129th meeting, the Council elected Liesbeth Lijnzaad (Netherlands) as President of the Council for 2007. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Kenya (African Group), Czech Republic (Eastern European Group), Guyana (Latin American and Caribbean Group) and Japan (Asian Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents of the Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of the members of the Council

4. At the 134th meeting of the Council, on 2 June 2008, the Secretary-General informed the Council that, as of 2 June 2008, credentials had been received from all the members of the Council. It was noted that, in accordance with the system agreed for the allocation of seats between the regional groups at the first election of the Council, Fiji, on behalf of the Asian Group, would participate in the meetings of the Council in 2008 without the right to vote. In 2009, it would be the turn of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to nominate a member of the Council to participate without the right to vote.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Report of the Legal and Technical Commission

5. At its 132nd meeting, on 30 May 2008, the Council received the report of the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the fourteenth session (ISBA/14/C/8). The Council took note of the report and in particular of the progress that had been made by the Commission in finalizing a recommendation on draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area.

Consideration of the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the approval of a plan of work for exploration

6. The Council noted that the Authority had received applications for approval of a plan of work for exploration in reserved areas from Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (sponsored by Nauru) and Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (sponsored by Tonga).

7. At the 130th meeting, on 28 May 2008, the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission informed the Council that the Commission met to consider the applications on 21, 22, 26 and 27 May 2008. The Commission had not reached consensus with respect to a recommendation to the Council in relation to the applications and would therefore continue consideration of the applications at the next possible opportunity.

8. The representatives of Nauru and Tonga, the sponsoring States of the applications, expressed their gratitude to the Commission for its work in relation to the consideration of the applications and emphasized the importance of the applications to their Governments.

Budget of the Authority for the financial period 2009-2010 and scale of assessments for contributions of members of the Authority to the administrative budget

9. At the 136th meeting, on 3 June 2008, the Council considered the proposed budget of the Authority for the financial period 2009-2010 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/14/A/3-ISBA/14/C/3). In considering the proposed budget, the Council took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in document ISBA/14/A/7-ISBA/14/C/6. The Council decided to recommend to the Assembly for adoption the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2009-2010 in the amount of 12,516,500 United States dollars. Members of the Council also noted that the Finance Committee had encouraged observer States to the Authority to consider making voluntary contributions to the general administrative fund of the Authority as well as to the Endowment Fund and the Voluntary Trust Fund. The decision of the Council in relation to the budget and related matters is contained in document ISBA/14/C/10.

Proposal to the Assembly of a list of candidates for election of the Secretary-General

10. At the 132nd meeting, on 30 May 2008, the Council took up the question of a list of candidates to be proposed to the Assembly for election as Secretary-General of the Authority, in accordance with article 162, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention. The Council noted that one candidate, Nii Allotey Odunton, had been nominated by Ghana. Accordingly, the Council decided to propose Mr. Odunton to the Assembly

for election as Secretary-General. The decision of the Council in that regard is contained in document ISBA/14/C/9.

Continued consideration of the draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area

11. As agreed at the thirteenth session, the Council continued its detailed examination of the revised draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area, as contained in ISBA/13/C/WP.1. In so doing, the Council had before it an informal text showing the revisions to the draft regulations agreed at the thirteenth session (ISBA/13/C/CRP.1) and an additional document prepared by the Secretariat dealing in more detail with the remaining outstanding issues with respect to the draft regulations (ISBA/14/C/4).

12. By the end of the session, the Council had completed a review of those draft regulations that had been left pending at the end of the thirteenth session, as well as a review of the informal texts of annexes 1 and 2 (ISBA/14/C/CRP.3) and annex 4 (ISBA/14/C/CRP.4), aligned with the informal text of regulations 1 to 44. It was indicated that a revised informal text of regulations 1 to 44, incorporating the revisions agreed at the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, would be produced by the Secretariat in due course under the symbol ISBA/13/C/CRP.1/Rev.1. The Council further requested the Secretariat to issue in due course a revised text of the whole draft regulations, harmonized in all official languages, incorporating the revisions agreed to date, and agreed to continue its work on the outstanding regulations at its next session. The Secretariat was also requested to provide additional background material, as appropriate, on the remaining outstanding issues with respect to the draft regulations.

Next meeting of the Council

13. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Kingston. The tentative dates are 13 to 24 April 2009. It was noted that the African Group would, in due course, nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Council in 2009.
