



No. 68/10

The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority presents his compliments to the members of the Council of the Authority and to the members and observers of the Authority and has the honour to refer to the sixteenth session of the Authority, to be held at Kingston, Jamaica from 26 April to 7 May 2010.

The Secretary-General further has the honour to refer to the provisional agenda for the Council (ISBA/16/C/L.1), which was communicated to the members of the Council and to the members and the observers of the Authority in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Council on 18 January 2010.

Since circulating the provisional agenda, the Secretary-General has received a communication from the Government of the Republic of Nauru, a member of the Authority, containing a proposal for the Council to request an advisory opinion from the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal to the Law of the Sea pursuant to article 191 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on matters relating to sponsoring State liability and responsibility.

In light of the communication from the Government of Nauru, and in accordance with Rules 10(e) and 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General considers it appropriate to include the following item on the provisional agenda of the Council for the sixteenth session:

“Proposal to seek an advisory opinion from the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea pursuant to article 191 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on matters relating to the responsibility and liability of sponsoring States.”

A revised provisional agenda has been issued under symbol ISBA/16/C/L.1/Rev.1 and is enclosed herewith. An official document containing details of the proposal is in preparation and will be made available as soon as possible. An informal advance copy of the proposal in the original language of submission will also be posted on the Authority’s web site by 3 March 2010.

The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Members of the Authority the assurances of his highest consideration.

25 February 2010