

# Composition of the Council of the International Seabed Authority

(Prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of Annex II to A/48/950, ISBA/A/L.8, ISBA/A/L.8/Corr.1, ISBA/4/A/5, ISBA/4/A/6\*, ISBA/6/A/14, ISBA/8/A/10, ISBA/10/A/12, ISBA/12/A/12 and ISBA/14/A/12)

1996*	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004**	2005	2006**	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
<b>GROUP A</b>																	
United States <sup>[i]</sup>	United States	United States	Italy <sup>[ii]</sup>	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy <sup>[iii]</sup>	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy			
Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia	Russia			
Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	China	China	China	China	China	China	China	China	
<b>GROUP B</b>																	
France	France	France	France	France	India	India	India	India	India	India	India	India	India	India	India	India	
China	China	China	China	China	China	China	China	China	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	R.O. Korea <sup>[xiii]</sup>	R.O. Korea			
India	India	India	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	France	France	France	France	France	France	France			
Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany			
<b>GROUP C</b>																	
Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Canada <sup>[xx]</sup>	<i>[Canada]</i>	Canada <sup>[xxi]</sup>	Canada	Australia	Australia			
Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile <sup>[iii]</sup>	Chile	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia			
Indonesia <sup>[iv]</sup>	Indonesia	Indonesia	Poland <sup>[v]</sup>	Poland	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Canada	Canada	Canada	
Zambia <sup>[vi]</sup>	Zambia	Zambia	Gabon <sup>[vii]</sup>	Gabon	South Africa	South Africa	Zambia	Gabon <sup>[viii]</sup>	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	
<b>GROUP D</b>																	
Oman	Oman	Oman	Oman	Oman	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	
Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	<i>[Fiji]</i>	Fiji	Fiji			
Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	
Trinidad & Tobago <sup>[ix]</sup>	Trinidad & Tobago	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica			
Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt			
Nigeria <sup>[x]</sup>	Nigeria	Nigeria	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	
<b>GROUP E</b>																	
R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	R.O. Korea	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Philippines <sup>[xi]</sup>	Philippines	Philippines	Philippines	<i>[Philippines]</i>	Algeria	Algeria	<i>[Algeria]</i>	Algeria	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	
Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	Paraguay	Paraguay	Paraguay	Paraguay	Paraguay	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras <sup>[xii]</sup>	Chile	Chile	
Poland	Poland	Poland	Indonesia	Indonesia	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	
Ukraine	Ukraine	Ukraine	Ukraine	Ukraine	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	
Italy <sup>[xiii]</sup>	Italy	Italy	Belgium		Malta	<i>[Malta]</i>	Malta	Malta	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	
Austria <sup>[xiv]</sup>	<i>[Austria]</i>	<i>[Austria]</i>	Austria <sup>[xv]</sup>	Belgium	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	
Netherlands	Netherlands	Belgium	Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan	Myanmar	<i>[Myanmar]</i>	Myanmar	Myanmar	Viet Nam	Viet Nam	Viet Nam	Viet Nam			
Egypt <sup>[xvi]</sup>	Egypt	Egypt	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar			
Sudan <sup>[xvii]</sup>	Sudan	Sudan	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon			
South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria			
Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	<i>[Senegal]</i>	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	
Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	
Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Gabon <sup>[xviii]</sup>	Gabon	Gabon	South Africa	Gabon	Gabon	Gabon	Gabon	Angola	Angola	Angola	Angola	
Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	
Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	
Paraguay <sup>[xviii]</sup>	Paraguay	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	<i>[Trinidad &amp; Tobago]</i>	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	
Cuba	Cuba	Cuba	Costa Rica <sup>[xix]</sup>	Costa Rica	<i>[Guyana]</i>	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	<i>[Guyana]</i>	Guyana	Guyana	
					Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	

\* In order to achieve equitable geographical representation in the Council, the following allocation of seats were agreed to for the first election: Africa 10, Asia 9, Eastern Europe 3, Latin American and the Caribbean States 7, and Western European and Others 8. This resulted in a total of 37 against the 36 members prescribed in the Convention. Therefore, it was further agreed that each regional group, other than the Eastern European Group, will relinquish in rotation one seat for one year during the first four year period in order to conform to the requirement of 36 members of the Council under the Convention. The member whose seat is relinquished by its regional group will participate in the meetings of the Council without the right to vote. Such members are shown in the table above in light blue italics. It was in this context that 19 seats were elected during certain elections instead of 18 seats.

\*\* The arrangement for Groups A and B during both the 2004 and 2006 elections were without prejudice to future elections for the two Groups and any interim arrangements for substitutions in these Groups.

## Endnotes

- i. United States was elected in 1996 for a 2-year term with the understanding that it could be re-elected for another 4 years if it so wished. The provisional membership of the United States was terminated on 16 November 1998.
- ii. It was agreed that Italy would relinquish its seat in Group A in favour of the United States if the United States became a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election to the Council.
- iii. Chile was elected for four years on the understanding that it would serve from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2000, after which it would relinquish its seat to Indonesia. The seat vacated by Indonesia on 31 December 2002 would then be open for election to any State eligible to represent Group C on the Council.
- iv. Indonesia was elected for a 4-year term with the understanding that after 2 years it would relinquish the seat to Poland to complete the remaining 2 years.
- v. Poland would serve from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2000, after which the seat vacated by Poland would be open for election to any State eligible to represent Group C on the Council, on the basis that Poland would serve for two years during the period 2001-2006.
- vi. Zambia was elected for a 4-year term with the understanding that after 2 years it would relinquish the seat to Gabon to complete the remaining 2 years.
- vii. Gabon would serve from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2000, after which South Africa would be elected for four years, with the understanding that it would relinquish its seat to Zambia for the third year and to Gabon for the fourth year. The seat to be vacated by Gabon on 31 December 2004 would then be open for election to any State eligible to represent Group C on the Council.
- viii. It was the understanding within the African Group that, for 2005, South Africa would occupy the seat in Group C that was occupied by Gabon in 2004.
- ix. It was agreed in 1996 that Trinidad and Tobago would serve on the Council for a total period of 4 years and Paraguay for a total period of 2 years. For this purpose, Trinidad and Tobago was first elected to serve a 1-year term in Group D against a 2-year seat and thereafter replaced Paraguay in Group E for the remaining 3 years. Trinidad and Tobago would be replaced in Group D by Jamaica for the remaining year. Paraguay, after serving 1 year in Group E would occupy the seat in Group E vacated by the Western European and Others Group for 1 year.
- x. Nigeria was elected in 1996 for a 4-year term with the understanding that it would serve only during the first two years and then relinquish the seat to Sudan to serve for 2 years in order to complete the 4-year term.
- xi. Philippines was elected in 1996 for a 4-year term but in the fourth year it would participate in the meetings of the Council without the right to vote when the Asian Group relinquishes a seat for that year.
- xii. Italy was elected in 1996 for a 4-year term, but would relinquish its seat in the third year to Belgium and would resume in the fourth year.
- xiii. Austria was elected in 1996 for a 2-year term, but in the framework of the rotation agreement, would in the second year participate in the deliberations of the Council without the right to vote.
- xiv. Austria would relinquish its seat in favour of Belgium at the end of 1999. Belgium would occupy the seat for one year until the end of 2000. The Western European and Others Group would determine which country would occupy that seat for the remaining two years of that term.
- xv. Egypt was elected in 1996 for a 2-year term with the understanding that after 2 years it would be elected in Group D for a 4-year term but would relinquish the seat in Group D after serving for two years; the candidate to occupy the seat in Group D for the remaining 2 years of the term was to be decided by the African Group at that time.
- xvi. Sudan was elected in 1996 for a 2-year term, after which it would replace Nigeria in Group D for the remaining 2 years of the 4-year term in which Nigeria was elected.
- xvii. Gabon, elected in 2000, would serve in Group E for the period 2001 to 2003, with the understanding that in 2004 it would occupy a seat in Group C (see note vii).
- xviii. Paraguay was elected in 1996 for a 4-year term, with the understanding that it would serve only the first year, after which it would relinquish the seat to Trinidad and Tobago for the remaining 3 years.
- xix. Costa Rica, elected in 1998, would relinquish its seat after two years.
- xx. Canada replaced Australia for the remainder of its term (2005-2006).
- xxi. Canada will relinquish its seat in Group C to Australia from 1 January 2009 for two years.
- xxii. Honduras will relinquish its seat in Group E to Chile from 1 January 2009 for two years.
- xxiii. The Republic of Korea, having been elected for a four year term in 2006 as a member of Group E, will relinquish its seat in Group E with effect from 1 January 2009 and will take up the seat in Group B that was previously occupied by the United Kingdom for the remainder of the term of the Republic of Korea, without prejudice to future elections.

## Composition of the Council of the International Seabed Authority

In accordance with paragraph 15, of section 3, of the Annex to the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, the Council of the International Seabed Authority shall consist of 36 members elected by the Assembly in the following order:

- (a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group;
- (b) Four members from among the eight States Parties which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals;
- (c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies;
- (d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States;
- (e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe and Others.

Article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention stipulates that elections for membership of the Council shall take place at regular sessions of the Assembly. The term of office of each member of the Council is four years, except that at the first election, the term of one-half of the members of each group was two years.

The first Council of the Authority was elected by the Assembly at the second session of the Authority in March 1996. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the term of one-half of the members elected at that time expired in 1998. On 25 March 1998, at its fifty-third meeting, the Assembly decided that, in order to harmonize the terms of office of the members of the Council to be elected in 1998, their four-year term would commence on 1 January 1999 and continue for a period of four calendar years until 31 December 2002. The Assembly also decided that the terms of office of the members of the Council elected in 1996 for a two-year term would end on 31 December 1998. Thereafter new members were elected for the normal term of four years.