

Briefing Note for the 28 February 2022 informal webinar on presentation and exchange of views concerning the Facilitator's Text ISBA/27/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. This Briefing Note sets out the modalities and instructions for participation in the 28 February 2022 webinar for the informal working group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment ("**Informal Working Group**"). This note includes: (i) a background for the webinar; (ii) a description of the purpose of the webinar; and (iii) information on modalities for participants to register.

I. Background

2. At the first part of the twenty-sixth session of the Authority, the Council decided to establish three informal working groups, with the mandate and working modalities set out in the annex to its decision (ISBA/26/C/11). In accordance with that decision, I was appointed as Facilitator of the Informal Working Group.

3. During the resumed meeting of the twenty-sixth session of the Council in December 2021, the Council agreed with a road map for work on the Draft Regulations in 2022 (see ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1, annex), including the work of the Informal Working Groups. The road map requires from me that:

(i) by early February 2022, I circulate a paper containing revised text to parts IV and VI and annexes IV, VII and VIII of the Draft Regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (ISBA/25/C/WP.1) reflecting the discussions from February 2020 and incorporating comments received from all members and observers; this is contained in the document **ISBA/27/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1**; and

(ii) in late February 2022, I host a webinar to receive general views on the facilitator's text.

II. Purpose of the Webinar

4. Thus, the aim of the webinar is to introduce the facilitator's text and receive general views from the participants. The webinar will provide an opportunity to discuss any initial reactions to the facilitator's text. I will prepare a summary of the general views expressed during the webinar for the March 2022 session of the Council. For that purpose, the webinar will be recorded.

5. In addition, at the end of the webinar, I wish to take some time to brief you on how I preliminarily intend to organise the work during the three days of the March 2022 session which are dedicated to the Informal Working Group. I tentatively suggest that: (i) two days are spent considering text-based negotiations based on the facilitator's text; and (ii) one day is spent considering the following phase one draft standards and guidelines. In doing so, and subject to the organization of the work of the Informal Working Groups by the Council in plenary on 21 March 2022, the draft standards and guidelines that I preliminarily suggest to address are:

- (i) the draft guidelines for the establishment of baseline environmental data (ISBA/27/C/11);
- (ii) the draft standard and guidelines for the environmental impact assessment process (ISBA/27/C/4);
- (iii) the draft guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements (ISBA/27/C/5); and
- (iv) the draft guidelines for the preparation of environmental management and monitoring plans (ISBA/27/C/6).

6. Finally, I would like to emphasize that, whilst interactive, the webinar is convened for information purposes and is not intended to be a meeting of the Council or a forum for negotiations as the negotiating process is occurring within the Council at the first part of its session in March 2022. Nor is the webinar intended to constitute a stakeholder consultation. Therefore, participants are invited not to submit specific drafting proposals at the webinar but to reserve them for the negotiation.

III. Modalities and Instructions for Participation

7. I kindly invite Members of the International Seabed Authority and Observers to the International Seabed Authority as referred to in Rule 82 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to register as soon as possible, but no later than 21 February 2022 (5 pm, Jamaica time) by clicking this link: [Webinar: IWG on Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment](#)

8. The webinar will be held from 8 am until 9:30 am Kingston time on 28 February 2022. This will be hosted on the zoom platform and an invitation link will be automatically generated after the Secretariat proceeds with the registrations received using Microsoft Forms for the registration purposes only, as this allows for more field options for the registration process.

Suva, 8 February 2022