



INFORMATION NOTE ON MATTERS BEFORE THE SECOND PART OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

2 to 27 July 2018, Kingston, Jamaica

Delegates are encouraged to take their electronic device to the meetings so that they can use the Authority's Paper Smart Portal which provides secure web-based access to documents, statements and meeting-related information.

1. This information note has been prepared to inform members and observers of the International Seabed Authority of the work of the Authority at its forthcoming twenty-fourth session scheduled to be held in Kingston, Jamaica from 2 to 27 July 2018.
2. The Legal and Technical Commission will hold its meetings, from 2 to 13 July, 2018. The Finance Committee will also meet from 9 to 12 July. A joint meeting will be held between the Commission and the Committee on 13 July 2018 following the Council's request that the Commission collaborate with the Finance Committee in matters relating to the development of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, and in particular the payment mechanism and, more specifically, administrative fees, together with the development of equitable sharing criteria ([ISBA/24/C/8](#)).
3. The Council held 10 meetings from 5 to 9 March 2018 and will resume its meetings of the twenty-fourth session from 16 to 20 July 2018. In March 2018, the Council elected Olav Myklebust (Norway) as President of the Council, together with the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire (African States), India (Asia-Pacific States), Poland (Eastern European States) and Brazil (Latin American and Caribbean States) as Vice-Presidents for the twenty-fourth session ([ISBA/24/C/8](#)).
4. The Assembly will formally convene for the first time on Monday, 23 July 2018 and complete its business on Friday, 27 July 2018. Members of the Authority are reminded that it is the turn of the Eastern European States Group to nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Assembly in 2018. Each of the other regional groups will be entitled to nominate a Vice-President of the Assembly. There is also a Credentials Committee to be appointed.
5. **The secretariat would be grateful, in order to facilitate the smooth running of the session, if regional groups can coordinate on the issue of candidatures for the positions of President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly in advance of the session, and to communicate the same to the Office of the Secretary-General.**
6. This note outlines the main issues for consideration by the Assembly, Council, Legal and Technical Commission and Finance Committee during July 2018. It is important to note that, as required by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, a number of substantive matters will be considered sequentially by different organs of the Authority before a final decision on them can be taken. The

agenda of the Council and the Commission and provisional agendas for the Finance Committee and Assembly, and the indicative programme of work, which are attached to this note, are designed with this consideration in mind.

I. FINANCE COMMITTEE

7. The Finance Committee will review the implementation of the budget and the audited financial statements for the financial period 2017, together with the audit report prepared by Ernst & Young. The Committee will also consider the implementation of cost-saving measures, including those relating to conference services, and the status of the Working Capital Fund ([ISBA/24/FC/2](#)), the Endowment Fund and of the Voluntary Trust Funds. The Committee will also review the status of implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

8. The Committee will commence its consideration of the rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area pursuant to section 9, paragraph 7 (f), of the annex to the 1994 Agreement.

9. The Committee will deliberate on the proposed budget for the financial period 2019-2020 as well as the indicative scale of assessments. The Committee will also consider a report on the status of overhead charges for the administration and supervision of contracts for exploration and their reflection of costs actually and reasonably incurred ([ISBA/24/FC/3](#)).

10. A provisional agenda for the Finance Committee has been made available ([ISBA/24/FC/L.1](#)).

II. LEGAL AND TECHNICAL COMMISSION

11. The Legal and Technical Commission held its first part of the twenty-fourth session from 12 to 23 March 2018; the second part will take place from 2 to 13 July 2018.

12. In March 2018, the Commission adopted its agenda ([ISBA/24/LTC/1](#)) and elected its Chair (Michelle Walker) and Vice-Chair (Harald Brekke). The Commission devoted a considerable amount of time on the priority item of consideration and adoption of draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, including the requests made by the Council in this respect as contained in the Statement of the President of the Council on the work of the Council on the first part of the 24th session ([ISBA/24/C/8](#)). The Commission also considered other agenda items including the status of contracts, implementation of training programmes and allocation of training opportunities, additional measures to improve efficiency in the current process for reviewing annual reports, the review of the Recommendations for the guidance of Contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area, option of offering an equity interest in a joint venture arrangement, issues relating to the operation of the Enterprise and the implementation of the data management strategy of the Authority. The Report of the Chair of the Commission on the work of the Commission during the first part of the session is contained in [ISBA/24/C/9](#).

13. During its July meetings, the Commission will continue its consideration of the draft exploitation regulations, including a revised draft prepared by the Secretariat incorporating the comments made by the Commission at the March meetings, as well as other pending matters

III. COUNCIL

14. The Council will resume its session on 16 July 2018. During its meetings the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining, the Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at its sessions in 2018 (ISBA/24/C/9), and the report of the Secretary-General on the election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission.

15. The Council will also consider the report of the Finance Committee, and make recommendations to be forwarded to the Assembly concerning the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019-2020 and the indicative scale of assessment for contributions to the budget.

16. During its meetings, the Council will devote time to its consideration of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, including commentary and feedback from the Commission on the requests made to it by the Council in March 2018. The Council will also be presented with revised draft exploitation regulations for its consideration. On Monday, 16 July 2018, experts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) will update the Council on its work relating to the development of a financial model for the Authority, following MIT's presentation to the Council and to the Commission in March 2018.

IV. ASSEMBLY

17. The Assembly will open on Monday 23 July. It will commence its business with the adoption of the agenda followed by the election of a President and Vice-Presidents. A number of applications for observer status will also need to be considered.

18. The Assembly will consider the annual report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to article 166 of the Convention. The Assembly will also consider the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Authority for the period 2019-2023.

19. The Assembly will be required to consider the report of the Finance Committee, and approve the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019-2020 and the indicative scale of assessment for contributions to the budget, taking into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee and of the Council.

20. Elections to fill vacancies in the Council will also take place in the Assembly this session. Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A, three vacancies in Group B, two vacancies in Group C, three in Group D and seven vacancies in Group E for the period 2019 to 2022. The secretariat will prepare two information papers to assist member States in determining the States eligible for election in each group of the Council. These will be available at <https://www.isa.org/jm/sessions/24th-session-2018>.

21. The Assembly may also be required to consider any other items that may be brought to its attention by members of the Authority.

11 May 2018
Kingston, Jamaica

This note together with a provisional schedule of meetings and the official documents referred to herein, will also be made available for download from the Authority's website at <https://www.isa.org.jm/sessions/24th-session-2018>.