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Official seal, flag and emblem of the International Seabed Authority

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Although the name “International Seabed Authority” has been formally adopted in the Convention, no official sanction yet exists for the flag, emblem and seal of the Authority. The present symbol, which now appears in two principal variants on the official documents of the Authority as well as on the flag, badges, passes, letterheads and publications of the Authority, was created in 1997. It is a modification of the design that had been used by the United Nations for the purposes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and subsequently by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea. A different modification of the same design has been formally adopted for use by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

2. In view of the frequent necessity for using some insignia which shall be considered the official emblem of the Authority, it is suggested that the Assembly consider the formal adoption of the designs reproduced in the annex to the present document as the official emblems of the Authority by means of a resolution to that effect. Such a resolution would also recommend national legislative action by members of the Authority for the protection of the flag and emblem of the Authority from abuse by unauthorized reproduction for commercial purposes and authorize the drawing up of a flag code and regulations, similar to that in existence for the United Nations.¹

3. It may be noted that a similar procedure was employed by the United Nations in relation to its emblem and flag. In that case, separate resolutions were adopted on 7 December 1946² relating to the emblem and official seal of the United Nations and on 20 October 1947³ relating to the flag of the United Nations. In his report dated 15 October 1946 to the General Assembly on the matter,⁴ the Secretary-General had noted that the alternative to the adoption of a resolution would be to adopt an international protocol for signature, but that, in the circumstances, the matter was not of sufficient magnitude to warrant such a course of action.

4. In the case of the International Seabed Authority, in the light of the measures taken by the General Assembly in 1946 and 1947, it is suggested that the most appropriate method for dealing with the matter would be for the Assembly to adopt at the current session a resolution which would read as follows:

“The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

“Recognizing that it is desirable to approve a distinctive flag and emblem of the International Seabed Authority and to authorize the use of such distinctive emblem for the official seal of the Authority,

“Considering that it is necessary to protect the name of the Authority and its distinctive flag, emblem and official seal,

“1. Resolves therefore that the designs reproduced in part I of the annex to the present resolution shall be the emblem and distinctive design of the International Seabed Authority and shall be used for the official seal of the Authority;

“2. Resolves also that the flag of the International Seabed Authority shall be the distinctive emblem reproduced in part II of the annex, centred on a dark blue background;

“3. Directs the Secretary-General to draw up regulations concerning the dimensions and proportions of the flag;

“4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to adopt a flag code, having in mind the desirability of a regulated use of the flag and the protection of its dignity;

“5. Recommends:

(a) That members of the International Seabed Authority should take such legislative or other appropriate measures as may be necessary to prevent the use, without authorization by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, and in particular for commercial purposes by means of trade marks or commercial labels, of the emblem, the official seal and the name of the International Seabed Authority, and of abbreviations of that name through the use of its initial letters;

(b) That the prohibition should take effect as soon as practicable but in any event not later than the expiration of two years from the date of adoption of the present resolution;

(c) That each member of the International Seabed Authority, pending the putting into effect within its territory of any such prohibition, should use its best endeavours to prevent any use, without authorization by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, of the emblem, name or initials of the International Seabed Authority, and in particular for commercial purposes by means of trade marks or commercial labels.”

Notes

¹ ST/SGB/132, 11 November 1952.

² General Assembly resolution 92 (I).

³ General Assembly resolution 167 (II).

⁴ A/107.

Annex

Part I



Part II

