



Comments by the Legal and Technical Commission on the Interim Report on the periodic review of the International Seabed Authority pursuant to Article 154 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea and the comments by the Review Committee.

Consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission of the interim report of the review committee established to oversee the periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

1. The Commission welcomed those in attendance at the open session and expressed its great satisfaction at the interest shown by the many individuals present. It considered the interim report provided by the consultants, deeming it timely and essential to the assessment of the implementation of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to date. The Commission was unable to reach consensus, however, meaning that the following paragraphs reflect the views of the majority of its members.

2. Concerns were expressed, including with regard to shortcomings in the methodology of the review survey, such as drawing conclusions on the basis of the few responses to the questionnaire, and to recommendations stemming from only one or a handful of respondents. In addition, there was no visibility of the largest category of respondents as to their knowledge of the regime under review and consequently their accountability or responsibility in relation to matters relating to the mandate of the Authority. Furthermore, the underrepresentation of geographical regions and the phrasing of some questions that had the potential to influence responses, and thus outcomes, were noted. Some members of the Commission were of the opinion that there had been misunderstandings, such as regarding the distinction between transparency and lack of information. That demonstrated a need for the Authority to develop a clear communication strategy.

3. The interim report should be taken as a wake-up call for the Authority to act at the current session. The majority of the Commission members considered it to be the first in a series of steps to facilitate improved monitoring of the activities of the Authority. The point raised by the Commission was strongly connected to the comments of 25 May made by the committee established to oversee the review of the manner in which the international regime of the Area established in the Convention had operated in practice. It was also highlighted that the report was simply interim in nature.

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