

ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2021 TO 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of one-half of the members of the Council for the period 2021 to 2024.

2. In accordance with paragraph 15, of section 3, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (“the Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, 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 **[Group A]**;

(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 **[Group B]**;

(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 **[Group C]**;

(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 [**Group D**];

(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 the Western Europe and Others [**Group E**].

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asia and Pacific Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.”¹ Therefore, for the period 2021 to 2024 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

(a) In the first year (2021), the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would relinquish a seat;

(b) In the second year (2022), the Group of Western European and Other States would relinquish a seat;

(c) In the third year (2023), the Group of African States would relinquish a seat;

(d) In the fourth year (2024), the Group of Asia-Pacific States would relinquish a seat.

4. As agreed, the regional group, which relinquishes a seat, has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without the right to vote during the period of relinquishment.

5. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 17 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2018. A vacancy-filling election was held on 26 July 2018 when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years as from 1 January 2019 to 31 December

¹ ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1. The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 47 member States.

2022, subject to the understandings reached in the regional groups and interest groups (see [ISBA/24/A/9](#)):

Group A: Italy², Russian Federation

Group B: France, Germany, Republic of Korea

Group C: Australia³, Chile⁴

Group D: Fiji, Jamaica, Lesotho

Group E: Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia⁵, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore, Tonga

II. ELECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2021 TO 2024

6. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly, the terms of office of 19 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2020. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

Group A (4 members)

7. The current composition of Group A is **China** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Japan** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Italy**⁶ (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), and the **Russian Federation** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022). Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2021 to 2024.

Group B (4 members)

8. The current composition of Group B is **India** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **France** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Germany** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022) And the **Republic of Korea** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022). One vacancy will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2021 to 2024.

² Italy would relinquish its seat in group A in favour of the United States of America 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.

³ Australia was re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2021, it will relinquish its seat in group C to Indonesia. Australia will be a member of group E in 2021.

⁴ Chile was re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2020, it will relinquish its seat in group C to Indonesia. Chile will be a member of group E in 2020.

⁵ Indonesia is re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2020, it will relinquish its seat in group E to Chile and will occupy the seat in group C relinquished by Chile, and that, in 2021, it will relinquish its seat in group E to Australia and will occupy the seat in group C relinquished by Australia.

⁶ 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.

Group C (4 members)

9. The current composition of Group C is **Canada** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **South Africa** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Australia**⁷ (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), , and **Chile** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022)⁸. Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2021 to 2024.

Group D (6 members)

10. The current composition of Group D is **Bangladesh** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Brazil** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Uganda** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Fiji** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Jamaica** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), and **Lesotho** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022). Three vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2021 to 2024.

Group E (18 members)

11. The current composition of Group E is **Cameroon** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Ghana** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Indonesia**⁹ (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Mexico** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Nigeria** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022), **Singapore** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022) and **Tonga** (re-elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022). **Algeria, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Netherlands**¹⁰, **Panama, Poland, Spain**¹¹, **Trinidad and Tobago** and **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**¹² were elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020 and **Morocco**¹³ elected in 2017 for the remainder of a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020. Eleven vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2021 to 2024.

⁷ Australia was re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2021, it will relinquish its seat in group C to Indonesia. Australia will be a member of group E in 2021.

⁸ Chile was re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2020, it will relinquish its seat in group C to Indonesia. Chile will be a member of group E in 2020.

⁹ Indonesia was re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2020, it will relinquish its seat in group E to Chile and will occupy the seat in group C relinquished by Chile, and that, in 2021, it will relinquish its seat in group E to Australia and will occupy the seat in group C relinquished by Australia.

¹⁰ The Netherlands is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2020).

¹¹ Spain is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2018.

¹² The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2019.

¹³ At its 168th meeting of the twenty-third annual session of the Authority in 2017, the Assembly endorsed the election of Morocco to the Council for the remainder of a four-year term to expire on 31 December 2020 (ISBA/23/A/14).

12. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period from 2019 to 2022 is provided as **Annex I**.

13. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority, which are potential members of the groups, defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the Agreement is provided as **Annex II**.

ANNEX I

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 2019 TO 2022

No	2019	2020	2021	2022
Group A (4 members)				
1	China	China		
2	Japan	Japan		
3	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy
4	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
Group B (4 members)				
5	India	India		
6	France	France	France	France
7	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany
8	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea
Group C (4 members)				
9	Canada	Canada		
10	South Africa	South Africa		
11	Australia	Australia	Indonesia	Australia
12	Chile	Indonesia	Chile	Chile
Group D (6 members)				
13	Bangladesh	Bangladesh		
14	Brazil	Brazil		
15	Uganda	Uganda		
16	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji
17	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica
18	Lesotho	Lesotho	Lesotho	Lesotho
Group E (18 members)				
19	Algeria	Algeria		
20	Argentina	Argentina		
21	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire		
22	Czech Republic	Czech Republic		
23	Morocco	Morocco		
24	Netherlands	Norway		
25	Panama	Panama		
26	Poland	Poland		
27	Spain	Spain		
28	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago		
29	Norway	United Kingdom		
30	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon
31	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana
32	Indonesia	Chile	Australia	Indonesia
33	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico
34	<i>Mozambique*</i>	Mozambique	Mozambique	Mozambique
35	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria
36	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore
37	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga

* Mozambique relinquished the seat in 2019. It is a turn for Asia-Pacific Group to relinquish a seat in 2020, GRULAC in 2021 and Western European and others Group in 2022.

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT

GROUP A MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS (Derived from lists 1, 2A, 2B, and 3 of ISBA/26/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Germany	Republic of Korea
Belgium	India	Russian Federation
Brazil	Indonesia	South Africa
Canada	Italy	Ukraine
Chile	Japan	Zambia
China	France	
Finland	Norway	

GROUP B MAJOR INVESTORS (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/26/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Czech Republic	Netherlands	

GROUP C MAJOR NET EXPORTERS* (Derived from lists 6A, 6B, 6C, and 6D of ISBA/26/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Indonesia	Philippines
Brazil	France	Poland
Canada	Gabon	Russian Federation
Chile	Ghana	South Africa
China	Guatemala	Ukraine
Cuba	Madagascar	Zambia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mexico	Zimbabwe
India	Mongolia	

*This group should include at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies.

**GROUP D
GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS**

Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States. Derived from lists 7 to 13 of ISBA/26/A/CRP.2

Albania	Guatemala	Niue
Algeria	Guinea	Oman
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Pakistan
Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana	Philippines, the
Argentina	Haiti	Qatar
Armenia	India	Republic of Korea
Azerbaijan	Indonesia	Republic of Moldova
Bahamas	Iraq	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bahrain	Jamaica	Saint Lucia
Bangladesh	Jordan	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Barbados	Kiribati	Samoa
Belize	Kuwait	Sao Tome and Principe
Benin	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Saudi Arabia
Bolivia	Lesotho	Senegal
Botswana	Liberia	Serbia
Brazil	Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	Seychelles
Burkina Faso	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Malawi	Singapore
Cape Verde	Malaysia	Solomon Islands
Chad	Maldives	Somalia
Chile	Mali	South Africa
China	Malta	Sri Lanka
Comoros	Marshall Islands, the	Sudan
Congo	Mauritania	Suriname
Cook Islands	Mauritius	Syrian Arab Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Mexico	Timor-Leste
Cyprus	Micronesia, Federated States of	Thailand
Gabon	Mongolia	Togo
Gambia, the	Montenegro	Tonga
Georgia	Palau	Trinidad and Tobago
Ghana	Papua New Guinea	Tuvalu
Grenada	Paraguay	Uganda
Cuba	Morocco	Ukraine
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mozambique	United Republic of Tanzania
Djibouti	Myanmar	Vanuatu

Dominica	Namibia	Viet Nam
Dominican Republic	Nauru	Yemen
Ecuador	Nepal	Zambia
Eswatini	Niger	Zimbabwe
Fiji	Nigeria	

GROUP E
MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS
(Derived from list 14 of ISBA/26/A/CRP.2)

AFRICAN GROUP (47 MEMBERS)					
1	Algeria	17	Gabon	33	Niger
2	Angola	18	Gambia	34	Nigeria
3	Benin	19	Ghana	35	Sao Tome and Principe
4	Botswana	20	Guinea	36	Senegal
5	Burkina Faso	21	Guinea-Bissau	37	Seychelles
6	Cameroon	22	Kenya	38	Sierra Leone
7	Cape Verde	23	Lesotho	39	Somalia
8	Chad	24	Liberia	40	South Africa
9	Comoros	25	Madagascar	41	Sudan
10	Congo	26	Malawi	42	Togo
11	Côte d'Ivoire	27	Mali	43	Tunisia
12	Democratic Republic of the Congo	28	Mauritania	44	Uganda
13	Djibouti	29	Mauritius	45	United Republic of Tanzania
14	Egypt	30	Morocco	46	Zambia
15	Equatorial Guinea	31	Mozambique	47	Zimbabwe
16	Eswatini	32	Namibia		
ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (45 MEMBERS)					
1	Bahrain	16	Lebanon	31	Qatar
2	Bangladesh	17	Malaysia	32	Republic of Korea
3	Brunei Darussalam	18	Maldives	33	Samoa
4	China	19	Marshall Islands	34	Saudi Arabia
5	Cook Islands	20	Micronesia (Federated States of)	35	Singapore
6	Cyprus	21	Mongolia	36	Solomon Islands
7	Fiji	22	Myanmar	37	Sri Lanka
8	India	23	Nauru	38	State of Palestine
9	Indonesia	24	Nepal	39	Thailand
10	Iraq	25	Niue	40	Timor-Leste
11	Japan	26	Oman	41	Tonga
12	Jordan	27	Pakistan	42	Tuvalu
13	Kiribati	28	Palau	43	Vanuatu
14	Kuwait	29	Papua New Guinea	44	Viet Nam
15	Lao People's Democratic Republic	30	Philippines	45	Yemen
EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (23 MEMBERS)					
1	Albania	9	Estonia	17	Romania
2	Armenia	10	Georgia	18	Russian Federation
3	Azerbaijan	11	Hungary	19	Serbia
4	Belarus	12	Latvia	20	Slovakia
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	Lithuania	21	Slovenia

6	Bulgaria	14	Montenegro	22	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
7	Croatia	15	Poland	23	Ukraine
8	Czech Republic	16	Republic of Moldova		
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES GROUP (29 MEMBERS)					
1	Antigua and Barbuda	11	Dominica	21	Nicaragua
2	Argentina	12	Dominican Republic	22	Panama
3	Bahamas	13	Ecuador	23	Paraguay
4	Barbados	14	Grenada	24	Saint Kitts and Nevis
5	Belize	15	Guatemala	25	Saint Lucia
6	Bolivia	16	Guyana	26	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
7	Brazil	17	Haiti	27	Suriname
8	Chile	18	Honduras	28	Trinidad and Tobago
9	Costa Rica	19	Jamaica	29	Uruguay
10	Cuba	20	Mexico		
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES GROUP (23 MEMBERS)					
1	Australia	9	Greece	17	New Zealand
2	Austria	10	Iceland	18	Norway
3	Belgium	11	Ireland	19	Portugal
4	Canada	12	Italy	20	Spain
5	Denmark	13	Luxembourg	21	Sweden
6	Finland	14	Malta	22	Switzerland
7	France	15	Monaco	23	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
8	Germany	16	Netherlands		