



## Council

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### Twenty-seventh session

Council session, part I

Kingston, 21 March–1 April 2022

Item 14 of the provisional agenda\*

**Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on  
the work of the Commission at its twenty-seventh session**

### **Report on the relinquishment of one third of the area allocated to the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) under the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts between JOGMEC and the International Seabed Authority**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts between the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) and the International Seabed Authority was signed on 27 January 2014. The area under the contract covers 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
2. Pursuant to the schedule for fulfilling relinquishment obligations under regulation 27 (1) of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area (see [ISBA/18/A/11](#)), by the end of the eighth year from the date of the contract, the Contractor shall have relinquished at least one third of the original area allocated to it.
3. Accordingly, JOGMEC was required to relinquish at least one third of its allocated area by 26 January 2022. By letter dated 27 December 2021, JOGMEC submitted to the Secretary-General cartographic material that included shapefiles of relinquished and remaining cells and an overview map with the remaining exploration areas.
4. During the first part of the twenty-seventh session, held remotely from 14 to 18 March 2022, on the basis of the technical review carried out by the secretariat, the Legal and Technical Commission noted that the contractor had complied with its relinquishment obligations pursuant to the applicable regulations and the recommendations for the guidance of contractors on the relinquishment of areas under exploration contracts for polymetallic sulphides or cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts ([ISBA/25/LTC/8](#)).

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\* [ISBA/27/C/L.1](#).



5. The total original area, the maps of which are available at <https://bit.ly/3ugsvxM>, consists of 150 blocks, with each block consisting of 20 cells and each cell measuring 1 km x 1 km. The number of blocks per cluster varies from 5 to 40. A total of 1,000 cells of an area of 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> were relinquished from 150 blocks within 8 clusters. After this relinquishment, the remaining area under exploration covers 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
6. The relinquished area has reverted to the Area.
7. The Council is invited to take note of the present note.

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