



**President of the Council of
the International Seabed Authority**

10 November 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the letter dated 9 November 2020 from the President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority and from myself in which we jointly announced the impossibility of holding in-person meetings of the Assembly and of the Council at the headquarters of the Authority in December 2020.

I also wish to refer to my letters 20 and 23 October 2020 and to the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority of 23 October 2020 concerning the organization of work.

In light of the three identified time-sensitive items for consideration by the Council before the end of 2020, namely the budget of the International Seabed Authority, the candidate list for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, and the application for approval of a plan of work for exploration of polymetallic nodules, I propose, after consultations with the bureau and with the President of the Assembly, that the Council proceed as follows, having in mind the sequential decision-making procedures and the need to give sufficient time for the Assembly to dispose of its organization of work as well.

First, I propose that, under agenda item 20, the Council consider the candidate list for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority to recommend to the Assembly pursuant to article 162 (2) (b) of the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea. For that purpose, on 16 November 2020, I will circulate a letter to: (i) table a draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority concerning the candidate for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and (ii) propose that the draft decision be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 5 pm Jamaica time on 19 November 2020.

Secondly, I propose that the Council consider agenda items relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority and scale of assessed contributions to the budget, on the basis of the recommendations of the Finance Committee on the revised budget proposed by the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISBA/26/A/5/Add.1-ISBA/26/C/18/Add.1). To allow for an exchange of views from Members of the Council, I propose to organize, with the assistance of the secretariat, a webinar on 23 November 2020, at which the Chair of the Finance Committee will present to the Members of the Council the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee, including its annexed draft decision relating to the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts (ISBA/26/A/10-ISBA/26/C/21, annex I). Members of the Council will have an opportunity to send written statements to me during the week 23-27 November 2020. On 30

November 2020, I will circulate a letter to: (i) table a draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority in addition to the above mentioned draft decision on overhead charges and (ii) propose that the draft decisions be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 5 pm Jamaica time on 3 December 2020.


Lastly, under agenda item 10, I propose that the Council, acting on the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission, consider the application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd. For that purpose, on 7 December 2020, I will circulate a letter to: (i) table a draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority for approval of a plan of work for exploration of polymetallic nodules by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd. and (ii) propose that that the draft decision be deemed adopted if no objection are received by 5 pm Jamaica time on 10 December 2020.

For ease of reference, I have summarized the proposed schedule in the annex to this letter. I wish to emphasize that this proposed approach reflects the aim of the Bureau to strike a balance between ensuring that the Council has time to conduct deliberations while bearing in mind that the decisions of the Council are necessary for the Assembly to proceed with its own organization of work by the end of the year as well.

If I hear no objection to the above proposal to proceed with the implementation of the decision on the organization of work by 5 pm Jamaica time on 13 November 2020, I will inform the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority accordingly and I will proceed as outlined above.

Let me also seize this opportunity to remind Members of the Council who have not submitted credentials to do it as quickly as possible in line with the modalities set out in the letter dated 14 September 2020 from the Acting President of the Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.


President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority
Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md Khurshed Alam

Schedule and modalities for the implementation of the decision the Council of the International Seabed Authority of 23 October 2020 concerning the organization of work for the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council

(a) Agenda item 20: Other matters

Candidate list for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

16 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Council with an annexed draft decision to be placed for adoption under silence procedure
19 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Council on the outcome of the candidate list for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

(b) Agenda items 14, 15 and 16: Budget and scale of assessed contributions to the budget

23 November 2020	Webinar: presentation to the Council of the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee by its Chair
23-27 November 2020	Written statements by Members of the Council
30 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Council with two annexed draft decisions to be placed for adoption under silence procedure
3 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Council on the outcome concerning the budget and the overhead annual charges

(c) Agenda Item 10: Consideration of the application for approval of a plan of work for exploration of polymetallic nodules by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd.

7 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Council with an annexed draft decision to be placed for adoption under silence procedure
10 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Council on the outcome concerning the approval of the application submitted by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd.