



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

30 November 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letters dated 5, 20, 23 October 2020 and 10 and 16 November 2020 concerning the organization of work for the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority and to the Decision of 23 October 2020 of the Council concerning the organization of work for the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council.

In that decision, I wish to recall that the Council agreed to consider before the end of 2020 the time-sensitive agenda items 13, 14 and 15 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, 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) on the revised budget proposed by the Secretary-General (ISBA/26/A/5/Add.1-ISBA/26/C/18/Add.1).

To allow for an exchange of views on the Report of the Finance Committee and its recommendations, including its annexed draft decision relating to the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts, I wish to recall that a webinar was organized with the assistance of the Secretariat on 23 November 2020.

I believe that this permitted an interactive exchange and I wish to thank the delegations, the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Secretary-General for the clarifications brought in response to questions and comments on travel costs, conference costs and staffing costs made by the delegations. I also wish to thank the delegations who have submitted written statements following the webinar.

In addition, the Secretary-General has prepared a statement in response to statements submitted by members of the Council which is attached to this letter.

In light of this, I am pleased to place the enclosed Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2021-2022 (ISBA/26/C/L.4) as well as the 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) under a silence procedure for adoption.

The two draft decisions will be deemed to be adopted by the Council if no objections are received by the Secretariat by 5 pm Jamaica time on 3 December 2020. Objections to the draft decisions

should be done in a letter or a note verbale addressed to the President of the Council. Such correspondence should be sent in an email to Council2020@isa.org.jm (cc to: ola@isa.org.jm).

I will convey the outcome of the silence procedure concerning those two draft decisions by a letter addressed to the Members 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

Enclosure: Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2021-2022 (ISBA/26/C/L.4).