

5 October 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the letters of the Acting President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority dated 2, 9, 14, 21, 24, 28 September 2020 and 1 October 2020 concerning the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority.


I am honoured to be elected President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority and I would like to express my gratitude to Members of the Council for their confidence and trust, especially in these unprecedented and challenging circumstances and to Members of the Asia-Pacific States Group for their support in endorsing my candidacy for the presidency. I look forward to working with all delegations in the weeks ahead.

On behalf of all Members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority, I would like to convey our appreciation to Judge Kathy-Ann Brown for her work as Acting President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority and for successfully steering Members of the Council through the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Let me also express gratitude to the Vice-Presidents of the twenty-sixth session, Mr. Kenneth Wong of Canada, Her Excellency Janet Olisa of Nigeria and Mr. Kurbatskiy of the Russian Federation. I also wish to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to Judge Brown for been recently sworn in Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

As you are aware, through decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority dated 24 September 2020, the next matter for the Council of the International Seabed Authority to decide by the silence procedure is the organization of work for the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council. I propose to convene a meeting of the Bureau to discuss this, bearing in mind time-sensitive issues on the agenda of the Council and will circulate a letter to Members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority to convey the outcome of consultations and to make a proposal for the organization of work.

I also seize this opportunity to urge Members of the Council to submit credentials if they have not done so and to thank those who have already transmitted. Let me also take this opportunity to profusely thank the Secretary General, Legal Counsel and Deputy to the Secretary-General and all the members of the Bureau to carry forward the objectives of the ISA in such a timely manner.

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


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