

17 November 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the letter dated 9 November 2020 from the President of the Council 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 of 3 and 6 November 2020 and to the decision of the Assembly of 6 November 2020 concerning the organization of work.

In light of those time-sensitive items identified for consideration by the Assembly before the end of 2020, namely the elections to fill vacancies on the Finance Committee; the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for the four-year term commencing on 1 January 2021; the budget and scale of assessment to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2021-2022; the election to fill vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the draft decision of the Assembly to name the museum of the International Seabed Authority in honour of Nii Allotey Odunton; the Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the International Seabed Authority to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; and the Report of the Secretary-General on implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development, I propose that the Assembly proceed as follows:

Firstly, I propose that the Assembly consider the matter of elections to fill vacancies arising from resignations from the Finance Committee under agenda item 7, in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, 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. This is important to ensure the continued effective functioning of the Finance Committee. For that purpose, on 23 November 2020, I will circulate a letter to propose that the four candidates nominated, namely, Ms. Fujimoto Shoko, Mr. Philip Dixon, Mr. Fan Kejun and Mr. Abderahmane Zino Izourar, be elected for the remainder of the terms of Mr. Onuma Hiroshi, Ms. Ahila Sornarajah, Mr. Sun Zhi, and Mr. Mehdi Remaoun respectively, if no objections are received by 17:00 on 26 November 2020 (Jamaica time).

Secondly, I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda item 20, the draft decision of the Assembly to name the museum of the International Seabed Authority in honour of the former Secretary-General, Nii Allotey Odunton, as proposed by Ghana on behalf of the African Group, which is annexed to

[ISBA/26/A/14](#). For that purpose, I will propose, in the same letter of 23 November 2020, adoption of the draft decision of the Assembly to name the museum of the International Seabed Authority in honour of Nii Allotey Odunton, if no objections are received by 17:00 on 26 November 2020 (Jamaica time).

Thirdly, I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda item 17, election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for the four-year term commencing on 1 January 2021, from the candidate list proposed by the Council, which is scheduled to be issued on 19 November 2020. For that purpose, I will circulate a letter, on 30 November 2020, to (i) table a draft decision of the Assembly concerning election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for the four-year term commencing on 1 January 2021 and (ii) propose that the draft decision be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 17:00 on 3 December 2020 (Jamaica time).

Fourthly, I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda item 18, the election to fill vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. For that purpose, I will, in the same letter of 30 November 2020, (i) table a draft decision of the Assembly concerning election to fill vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority and (ii) propose that the draft decision be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 17:00 on 3 December 2020 (Jamaica time). Members of the Assembly are reminded that, pursuant to paragraph 10 of Section 3 of the Annex to the 1994 Agreement, each group of States in groups (a) to (d) of the Council shall be represented by the members nominated by those groups. It is also reminded that the agreed allocation of seats on the Council is 10 seats to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asia-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. Therefore, I urge regional groups to identify the list of candidates for election to fill the vacancies on the Council and communicate to the member of the Bureau (President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly) nominated by the respective regional group by 23 November 2020. I also intend to convene a meeting of the bureau the week prior to circulating my letter in order to finalize the draft decision on this matter. In this respect, I wish to highlight the fact that the decision will be made by consensus, as it always has been the case.

Fifthly, I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda items 13, 14 and 15, the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee, adoption of the budget of the Authority and adoption of the scale of assessment for the contribution to the budget of the Authority, on the basis of the recommendations of the Council on these matters. For that purpose, and subject to receiving the recommendation of the Council, I will circulate a letter, on 7 December 2020, to (i) table a draft decision of the Assembly to adopt the budget of the Authority and the scale of assessment for the contribution to the budget of the Authority, and (ii) propose that the draft decision be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 17:00 on 10 December 2020 (Jamaica time).

Sixthly, I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda 12, the Report of the Secretary-General on the action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ([ISBA/26/A/4](#)) and adopt a draft decision of the Assembly relating to action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable

Development (See Annex II, [ISBA/26/A/4](#)). It is noted that the Secretariat of the Authority is organizing a high-level webinar to present the draft action plan of the Authority in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development on 17 November 2020. Further, to allow for an exchange of views from the members of the Authority, I propose that the Secretariat of the Authority circulate a letter to invite written statements on this matter by 4 December 2020, which will be posted on the website of the Authority. I will circulate a letter, on 14 December 2020, to propose that the draft decision of the Assembly relating to action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (See Annex II, [ISBA/26/A/4](#)) be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 17:00pm on 17 December 2020 (Jamaica time).

Lastly, I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda item 9 (Annual report of the Secretary-General under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), a report of the Secretary-General on Implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development (see [ISBA/26/A/7](#) and [ISBA/26/A/12](#)) and adopt a draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development (see Annex, [ISBA/26/A/7](#)). To allow for an exchange of view from the members of the Authority, I propose that the Secretariat of the Authority circulate a letter to invite written statements on this matter by 4 December 2020, which will be posted on the website of the Authority. I will, in the same letter of 14 December 2020, propose that the draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development (see Annex, [ISBA/26/A/7](#)) be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 17:00pm on 17 December 2020 (Jamaica time).

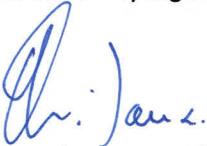
For ease of reference, I have summarized the proposed schedule in the annex to this letter.

If no objections are received to the above proposal to proceed with the implementation of the decision of the Assembly on the organization of the work by 17:00 on 20 November 2020 (Jamaica time), I will inform the Secretary-General of the Authority accordingly and I will proceed as outlined above.

Let me also seize this opportunity to remind members of the Authority who have not submitted credentials to do it as soon as possible in line with the modalities set out in the Note Verbale No ISA/EOSG/2020/141 of 28 September 2020.

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




Ambassador Denys Wibaux
President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

To: All members of the International Seabed Authority

Annex

Schedule and modalities for the implementation of the decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority of 6 November 2020 concerning the organization of work for the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly

- a) **agenda item 7: election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, 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**

23 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing election of four candidates for the vacancies on the Finance Committee
26 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome on the election of four candidates for the vacancies on the Finance Committee

- b) **Agenda item 20: Draft decision of the Assembly to name the museum of the International Seabed Authority in honour of Nii Allotey Odunton**

23 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing adoption of the draft decision of the Assembly to name the museum of the International Seabed Authority in honour of Nii Allotey Odunton
26 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome on adoption of the draft decision of the Assembly to name the museum of the International Seabed Authority in honour of Nii Allotey Odunton

- c) **Agenda item 17: Election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority**

30 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing adoption of a draft decision on the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority
3 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome of the draft decision on the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

- d) **Agenda item 18: Election to fill vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

30 November 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing adoption of a draft decision on election to fill vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority
3 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome of the draft decision on election to fill vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority

e) Agenda items 13, 14 and 15: The report and recommendations of the Finance Committee, adoption of the budget of the Authority and adoption of the scale of assessment for the contribution to the budget of the Authority

7 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing adoption of a draft decision on the budget of the Authority and scale of assessment for the contribution to the budget of the Authority
10 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome of the draft decision on the budget of the Authority and scale of assessment for the contribution to the budget of the Authority

f) Agenda 12: Report of the Secretary-General on the action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

14 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing adoption of a draft decision of the Assembly relating to the action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
17 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome of the draft decision of the Assembly relating to the action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

g) Agenda item 9: Report of the Secretary-General on implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development

14 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly proposing adoption of a draft decision of the Assembly relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development
17 December 2020	Letter from the President of the Assembly on the outcome of the draft decision of the Assembly relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development