



**REPRÉSENTATION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS DE
L'AUTORITÉ INTERNATIONALE
DES FONDS MARINS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

7 January 2021

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letters dated 3, 6, 17, 20 November and 7, 14, 31 December 2020 concerning the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority.

Further to my letter dated 31 December 2020, transmitting the Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the election to fill the vacancies on the Council of the Authority in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (as contained in [ISBA/26/A/CRP.4](#)), which was placed under the silence procedure until 5:00pm on 6 January 2021 (Jamaica time), I regret to inform that the silence procedure has been broken.

In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to rule 84 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly which provides that "The Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority elected by the Assembly in the following order: [(a) to (e)]". I observe that there is consensus among each group of States referred to in rule 84 (a) to (d) on the nomination of candidates and that the number of candidates nominated by those groups is equal to the number of seats required to be filled by those groups. Therefore, I will circulate a letter, on Monday 11 January 2021, to propose the election of the nominated candidates for groups a) to d) of the Council.

As for the nomination of candidates for Group e), I urge those members concerned to continue their consultations and come to a consensus as soon as possible.

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