



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

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

14 December 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letters dated 3, 6, 17, 20 November and 7 December 2020 concerning the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority.

In line with the decisions of the Assembly dated 6 and 20 November 2020 respectively concerning the organization of work and the schedule and modalities for the organization of work of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Assembly, I wish to make the following proposals in relation to agenda items 9 and 12 of the Assembly and the associated draft decisions:

(a) Agenda item 9 and Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development

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), the Report of the Secretary-General on implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development (see [ISBA/26/A/7](#) complemented by [ISBA/26/A/12](#)), and adopt, through silence procedure, the draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development (see Annex to [ISBA/26/A/7](#) as attached).

To this end, the proposal to adopt the Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development (see Annex to [ISBA/26/A/7](#) as attached) is hereby placed under the silence procedure until 5:00pm on Thursday 17 December 2020 (Jamaica time).

Any objection to the proposal should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale addressed to me, with a clear indication of an objection being raised to the proposal. Such correspondence should be sent by email to secretary-general@isa.org.jm (cc to assembly@isa.org.jm).

(b) Agenda item 12 and 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

I propose that the Assembly consider, under agenda item 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 (see [ISBA/26/A/4](#)), and adopt, through silence procedure, 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 to [ISBA/26/A/4](#) as attached).

To this end, the proposal to adopt 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 to [ISBA/26/A/4](#) as attached) is hereby placed under the silence procedure until 5:00pm on Thursday 17 December 2020 (Jamaica time).

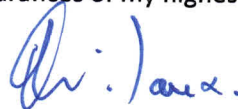
Any objection to the proposal should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale addressed to me, with a clear indication of an objection being raised to the proposal. Such correspondence should be sent by email to secretary-general@isa.org.jm (cc to assembly@isa.org.jm).

In addition, I would like to recall my letter dated 7 December 2020, in relation to agenda item 18 “Election to fill 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” and inform the members of the Assembly that the Group of Western European and Other States still needs more time to continue their consultation over this matter. Therefore, a draft decision of the Assembly concerning election to fill vacancies on the Council of the Authority, will be tabled and placed under the silence procedure when it is ready.

In this respect, I would like to take this opportunity to urge the Group of Western European and Other States to nominate the candidates for election to fill the vacancies on the Council and communicate to me, through the Secretariat by email to secretary-general@isa.org.jm (cc to assembly@isa.org.jm) as soon as possible, keeping in mind that the terms of office of 19 members of the Council in total will end on 31 December 2020.

Finally, I would also like to seize this opportunity to urge the Group of Asia-Pacific States to continue their consultation on one remaining seat for the Credentials Committee and communicate the outcome to me, through the Secretariat by email to secretary-general@isa.org.jm (cc to assembly@isa.org.jm) 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