



## Council

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**Eighteenth session**  
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### **Decision of the Council relating to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Taking note* of the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the eighteenth session,<sup>1</sup>

*Considering* the importance of contractors complying with their contractual obligations, and recalling in this regard article 10 of annex III to the Convention,

*Noting* that the Commission considered the environmental work reported by contractors in 2011 to be generally of better quality than that reported in previous years,

*Noting also* that the Commission expressed concern that some contractors reported no work at all under exploration, mining and metallurgy-related activity,

*Noting further* that the Commission agreed on the need to review its reporting to the Council, in particular with regard to annual reports of the contractors,

*Emphasizing* the need for recommendations by the Commission for the guidance of the contractors for the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area,

1. *Calls upon* contractors to:

(a) Submit their annual reports in a timely manner within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, in accordance with the terms of their contracts, and to follow the general template prescribed by the Commission;

(b) Submit the results of fieldwork (especially with regard to exploration, if any was carried out) in the detail required and in digital format, in accordance with the terms of their contracts;

(c) Provide data in digital format for inclusion in the database of the Authority, in accordance with regulation 31, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Regulations

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/18/C/20.



on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area<sup>2</sup> and with regulation 34 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area,<sup>3</sup> and to do so before 31 March 2013;

(d) Provide detailed financial statements, in accordance with the terms of their contracts and following the guidance of the Commission contained in the recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the reporting of actual and direct exploration expenditures;<sup>4</sup>

2. *Stresses* once again the importance of the role of the Commission, as provided for in regulation 21, paragraph 3 (d), of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area and in regulation 23, paragraph 3 (d) of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area, in determining that an applicant for a new plan of work for exploration has satisfactorily discharged its obligations in relation to any previous contract with the Authority, including in relation to environmental reporting, and supports the Commission in continuing to fulfil its role in this regard;

3. *Requests* the Commission, when evaluating the annual reports of the contractors and applications for approval of plans of work in the Area, to provide as full an evaluation as possible, taking into account the confidentiality of information received, in order to facilitate the performance by the Council of its functions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update, on an annual basis, the study of the laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the Authority with respect to activities in the Area, and to invite, for this purpose, sponsoring States and other members of the Authority to provide texts of relevant national laws, regulations and administrative measures to the Secretariat;

5. *Agrees* with the list of likely priority items referred to by the Commission in paragraph 30 of its summary report.<sup>1</sup>

*180th meeting  
26 July 2012*

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<sup>2</sup> See ISBA/6/A/18, annex.

<sup>3</sup> See ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> ISBA/15/LTC/7.