



Council

Distr.: General
9 July 2014

Original: English

Twentieth session
Kingston, Jamaica
14-25 July 2014

Laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the International Seabed Authority with respect to the activities in the Area

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. On 4 July 2014, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received a note verbale from the Legal Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, informing the Authority that on 14 May 2014, Royal Assent was given to the Deep Sea Mining Act 2014, which shall enter into force in the United Kingdom on 14 July 2014.

2. The Authority was further informed that the Deep Sea Mining Act 2014 amends the Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) Act 1981, which was enacted prior to the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The 1981 Act was sufficient for the Government of the United Kingdom to exercise effective control over a licensee involved in exploration or exploitation of the deep sea, as required of sponsoring States under the Convention, however only in relation to polymetallic nodules. The legislation also needed to be updated to ensure consistency with the Convention and the Implementation Agreement. The 1981 Act was based upon the idea that there would be a number of States which would sponsor the activities of their nationals, and that each such State would reciprocally recognize the activities of companies of the other States; whereas under the Convention and the Implementation Agreement, regulation is ensured through the Authority. Furthermore, under the Convention there are two provisions requiring recognition of judicial and arbitral decisions. The Deep Sea Mining Act 2014 makes amendments to the 1981 Act in order to implement provisions within the United Kingdom in respect of the Convention and the Implementation Agreement.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 9 July 2014.



3. The full text of the Deep Sea Mining Act 2014 is available on the website of the Authority.
4. The information regarding the national legislation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contained in part II of the annex to document [ISBA/20/C/11](#) should be replaced by the following:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1981, as amended by Deep Sea Mining Act 2014, effective 14 July 2014.
