



## Council

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**Twentieth session**  
Kingston, Jamaica  
14-25 July 2014

### **Decision of the Council relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by UK Seabed Resources Ltd.**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,*

*Noting that, on 8 February 2013, an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules was submitted to the Secretary-General of the Authority in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area<sup>1</sup> by UK Seabed Resources Ltd., sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,*

*Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 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,<sup>2</sup> the processing of an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,*

*Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention<sup>3</sup> and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,*

*Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,*

1. *Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for*

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/6/A/18, annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by UK Seabed Resources Ltd. transmitted to the Council,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraphs 30 to 34;

2. *Decides*, on the basis of the data and information submitted by UK Seabed Resources Ltd., and taking into account the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, to designate part B of the application area as identified in the annex to the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission as the area reserved for the Authority;

3. *Also decides*, taking into account the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, to allocate part A of the application area as identified in the annex to the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to UK Seabed Resources Ltd. as the exploration area;

4. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by UK Seabed Resources Ltd.;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the form of a contract between the Authority and UK Seabed Resources Ltd. in accordance with the Regulations.

*199th meeting  
21 July 2014*

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<sup>4</sup> ISBA/20/C/5.