



Council

Distr.: Limited
8 August 2017

Original: English

Twenty-third session
Kingston, 7-18 August 2017

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application by the Government of India for extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the Government of India and the Authority

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Recalling that, on 25 March 2002, the Government of India entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the International Seabed Authority,

Noting that, on 22 September 2016, the Secretary-General of the Authority received an application for a five-year extension of the contract,

Recalling section 1, paragraph 9, 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 1982,¹

Recalling also its decision relating to the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, of the annex to the Agreement,²

Considering the report and recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by the Government India for extension of the contract,³

1. *Decides to approve the application for extension of the contract;*
2. *Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 25 March 2017, by signature of an agreement in the form set out in appendix II to the annex to its decision relating to the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, 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;²*
3. *Invites the applicant to be ready to proceed to exploitation at the end of the five-year extension period.*

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

² [ISBA/21/C/19](#).

³ [ISBA/23/C/9](#).

