

# INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

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## Council



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INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY  
Resumed sixth session  
Kingston, Jamaica  
3-14 July 2000

### STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AT THE RESUMED SIXTH SESSION

1. The second part of the sixth session of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 3 to 14 July 2000.

#### Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission

2. At the beginning of the session, the Council was informed of the resignation from the Legal and Technical Commission of Mr Waguih Hanafi (Egypt). Following nomination by his government and in accordance with article 163, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the Council, at its 64th meeting, on 4 July 2000, elected Mr Mohammed M. Gomaa (Egypt) to fill the vacancy left in the Commission for the remainder of Mr Hanafi's five-year term.

#### Budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001-2002 and assessment of contributions of members of the Authority

3. The Council considered the proposed budget for the Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/6/A/7-ISBA/6/C/4). In reviewing the proposed budget, the Council took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in its report of 10 July 2000 (ISBA/6/A/13-ISBA/6/C/6). The Council recommended to the Assembly for adoption the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002 in the sum of US\$10,506,400. With respect to the scale of assessment of contributions of members to the administrative budget, the Council recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessment for 2000 based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for 1999. The decision of the Council relating to the budget of the Authority is contained in document ISBA/6/C/7.

#### Rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission

4. Recalling that the Council had approved, at its 58th meeting, on 26 August 1999, the rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission, with the exceptions of rules 6 and 53, the Council held informal consultations on the outstanding issues with respect to rules 6 and 53. In the light of the discussions, revisions were made to draft regulation 53 and a revised text of the regulations was produced (ISBA/6/C/L.4). At its 68th meeting, on 13 July

2000, the Council approved the rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission, as contained in document ISBA/6/C/9.

#### Staff Regulations

5. The Council considered the Staff Regulations of the Authority, contained in document ISBA/6/C/L.2. At its 69th meeting, on 13 July 2000, the Council decided, pursuant to article 162, paragraph 2 (o)(ii), of the Convention to adopt and apply provisionally the Staff Regulations pending their approval by the Assembly. The decision of the Council in relation to the Staff Regulations is contained in document ISBA/6/C/10.

#### Report of the Legal and Technical Commission

6. At the 68th meeting, on 13 July 2000, the Council received the report of the chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the resumed sixth session (ISBA/6/C/11). The Council noted the contents of the report and further noted that the draft recommendations for the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area would be finalized by the Commission at its next meeting and would later be transmitted to the Council.

#### Consideration of the draft regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area

7. From 3 to 12 July, the Council met in informal meetings to continue its discussions on the outstanding issues in relation to the draft regulations on prospecting and in exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area proposed by the Legal and Technical Commission (ISBA/6/C/2\*). In the light of the discussions on all outstanding issues, the President revised the text of the draft regulations and made a proposal to the Council for adoption (ISBA/6/C/8 and Corr.1). At its 69th meeting, on 13 July 2000, the Council decided to adopt and apply provisionally the draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area as contained in document ISBA/6/C/8 and Corr.1, pending their approval by the Assembly. The decision of the Council relating to the draft regulations on prospecting and in exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area is contained in document ISBA/6/C/12.

#### Next meeting of the Council

8. The Council recalled that, at its next meeting, it will need to elect a new Legal and Technical Commission. In this regard, some members of the Council expressed concern over the need to reach agreement on the number and distribution of seats on the Commission, while noting that this matter would need to be considered in due course by the interest groups and regional groups. Several members of the Council drew attention to the need to observe the provisions of article 163, paragraph 8, of the Convention, relating to the lack of financial interest on the part of members of the Commission. The Council also took note of the concerns of the present members of the Legal and Technical Commission, as contained in paragraph 14 of document ISBA/6/C/11, concerning the need to ensure that the new members represented a broad balance of expertise, as envisaged by article 165, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which provides as follows:

"1. Members of the Legal and Technical Commission shall have appropriate qualifications such as those relevant to exploration for and exploitation and processing of mineral resources, oceanology, protection of the marine environment, or economic or legal matters relating to ocean mining and related fields of expertise. The Council shall

endeavour to ensure that the membership of the Commission reflects all appropriate qualifications."

9. The President of the Council also drew the attention of the members of the Council to article 163, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, which provide as follows:

"3. Members of a Commission shall have appropriate qualifications in the area of competence of that Commission. States Parties shall nominate candidates of the highest standards of competence and integrity with qualifications in relevant fields so as to ensure the effective exercise of the functions of the Commissions.

"4. In the election of members of the Commissions, due account shall be taken of the need for equitable geographical distribution and the representation of special interests."

10. In order to facilitate the forthcoming election of the Legal and Technical Commission, the President of the Council requests States Parties to submit nominations, with detailed curricula vitae, at least two months in advance of the next meeting of the Council, so that the secretariat may circulate the nominations and curricula vitae to all members of the Authority.

11. The next meeting of the Council will be held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 2 to 13 July 2001.

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