

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Council



Distr.
GENERAL

ISBA/6/C/3
30 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
Sixth session
Kingston, Jamaica
20-31 March 2000

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

1. The first part of the sixth session of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 20 to 31 March 2000.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 60th meeting, on 20 March 2000, the Council adopted the agenda for the sixth session (ISBA/6/C/1).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council

3. At the 61st meeting, on 22 March 2000, Mr. Sakiusa A. Rabuka (Fiji Islands) was elected President of the Council for 2000. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Sudan (African Group), Jamaica (Latin American and Caribbean Group), Italy (Western European and Others Group), and Poland (Eastern European Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission

4. The Council recalled the agreement that had been reached at the fifth session and reflected in ISBA/5/C/11, whereby the Latin American and Caribbean Group would propose an additional candidate for election to the Legal and Technical Commission. At the 61st meeting, on 22 March 2000, the Council elected Ms. Frida María Armas Pfirter (Argentina) as a member of the Legal and Technical Commission for the remainder of the term of office. Such election will be without prejudice to future elections to the Commission and future decisions relating to the number of members of the Commission.

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

5. The Council held informal meetings from 20-24 and 27-30 March 2000 to continue the examination it had begun at the fourth session (1998) of the text of the draft regulations on prospecting and in exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area proposed by the Legal and Technical Commission (ISBA/5/C/4/Rev.1). In the light of the discussions, the secretariat, together with the President, prepared a further revised text of the draft regulations (ISBA/6/C/2). The Council agreed to continue its discussions on the draft, together with other outstanding issues in relation to the draft regulations, during the second part of the session.

Rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission

7. The Council did not have sufficient time during the first part of the session to consider the outstanding issues with respect to the draft rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission. It was agreed to take up this matter at the resumed session in July.

Election of the Secretary-General of the Authority

8. The Council considered the matter of the election of the Secretary-General, noting that the the Government of Fiji had presented the candidacy of Satya N. Nandan (Fiji) for re-election as Secretary-General. The Council decided to propose to the Assembly, pursuant to article 162, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention, the name of Satya N. Nandan as the sole candidate for election to the post of Secretary-General of the Authority.

Next meeting of the Council

9. The next meeting of the Council will be held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 3 to 14 July 2000. During the second part of the session, the Council will take up, inter alia, the Staff Regulations of the Authority and the outstanding issues with respect to the rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission.
