



Council

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Tenth session

Kingston, Jamaica
24 May-4 June 2004

Statement of the President on the work of the Council at the tenth session

1. The tenth session of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 24 May to 4 June 2004.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 90th meeting, on 24 May 2004, the Council adopted the agenda for the tenth session (ISBA/10/C/3).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council

3. At the 90th meeting, on 24 May 2004, Baïdy Diène (Senegal) was elected President of the Council for 2004. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Brazil (Latin American and Caribbean Group), Saudi Arabia (Asian Group), Spain (Western European and Other Group) and Poland (Eastern European Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission

4. At the 90th meeting, on 24 May 2004, Jean-Marie Auzende (France) was elected to fill the vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission caused by the resignation of Jean-Pierre Lenoble (France).

Budget of the Authority for the financial period 2005-2006 and report of the Finance Committee

5. At its 92nd meeting, on 1 June 2004, the Council received the report of the Finance Committee (ISBA/10/A/6-ISBA/10/C/7). The Council took note of the contents of the report, as introduced by Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia), Chairman of the Committee. The Council considered the proposed budget for the Authority for the financial period 2005-2006, as contained in ISBA/10/A/4/Rev.1-ISBA/10/C/6/Rev.1. In reviewing the proposed budget, the Council took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The Council recommended to the Assembly for adoption the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2005-

2006 in the sum of US\$ 10,816,700. The Council urged members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget on time and in full, as recommended by the Finance Committee in its report.

6. With respect to the issue of financing the participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission and members of the Finance Committee from developing countries, Mr. Djalal thanked Yury Kazmin, Angola, Namibia and Oman for their contributions to the voluntary trust fund. He also thanked Norway for its “touching effort” in making a contribution of US\$ 25,000 to the fund. The Council expressed its appreciation for Norway’s contribution by acclamation. Mr. Djalal appealed to all members of the Authority, as well as to others in a position to do so, to make contributions to the voluntary trust fund.

Report of the Legal and Technical Commission

7. At its 91st meeting, on 31 May 2004, the Council received the report of the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the tenth session (ISBA/10/C/4). The report was introduced by Frida Maria Armas Pfirter (Argentina), following the expression of condolences on behalf of the Commission for the tragic death on 30 May 2004 of Helmut Beiersdorf (Germany), member of the Commission. The Council noted the contents of the report. Members of the Council also expressed their appreciation to the Commission for its work during the tenth session.

8. Two members of the Council took note of the Commission’s positive evaluation of the annual reports of contractors and expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by most of the contractors by following the format and structure for annual reports recommended by the Commission. The Council also noted that the Commission had followed up its preliminary discussion on issues relating to biodiversity in the Area during the ninth session by undertaking a further discussion during the tenth session. Members of the Council expressed their support for the work of the Commission in protecting the marine environment and managing the biological resources of the world’s oceans. The Council also noted with deep sorrow and appreciation that, as requested by the Commission during the ninth session, the late Helmut Beiersdorf had been invited to write a proposal for a seminar related to the protection of the marine environment and high seas biodiversity during prospecting and exploration of mineral resources in the Area; that proposal had been taken as a basis for planning a workshop by the secretariat, to be held from 6 to 10 September 2004.

Supplementary Agreement between the International Seabed Authority and the Government of Jamaica regarding the headquarters of the Authority and the use of the Jamaica Conference Centre complex

9. The Council considered the Supplementary Agreement concluded between the Authority and the Government of Jamaica on 17 December 2004 as contained in ISBA/10/A/2-ISBA/10/C/2. The Council was informed by the Secretary-General that the Supplementary Agreement followed standard international arrangements of its kind. The Council was also informed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee that the Committee was satisfied with the financial implications of the Agreement and recommended that the Council and Assembly approve it, as indicated in the report of the Finance Committee (ISBA/10/A/6-ISBA/10/C/7). Having examined the

Agreement, the Council decided to recommend to the Assembly that it approve the Agreement.

Considerations relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area

10. At its 93rd meeting, on 2 June 2004, the Council considered the provisions of the draft regulations on polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts. Most members expressed the need for time to study the text and to consult with their Governments and, as such, there was a reluctance to discuss the details of individual provisions. Concerns were, however, raised regarding the responsibility of contractors for serious harm to the environment. One member noted that small coastal States might not be able to monitor sufficiently the environmental implications of prospecting or exploration by contractors within its proximity. In addition, some members questioned the proposed size of blocks and the requirement for contiguity of such blocks. In addition the Council recognized the need to monitor the market for the deposits and techniques for mining given technological changes. Furthermore it was recognized that the two resources, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt crusts, were fundamentally different resources and as a consequence different provisions were required to regulate each. The Secretariat informed the Council that explanatory notes would be provided on some of the technical issues in the draft regulations to enable delegations to better understand the proposed regulations in preparation for its consideration at the eleventh session.

Next meeting of the Council

11. The next meeting of the Council will be held in 2005 on dates to be fixed following consultations between the Secretary-General and the relevant departments of the United Nations and will be announced in the Assembly.