



Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2006

Original: English

Twelfth session

Kingston, Jamaica

7-18 August 2006

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

1. The twelfth session of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston from 7 to 18 August 2006.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 105th meeting, on 7 August 2006, the Council adopted the agenda for the twelfth session (ISBA/12/C/1).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council

3. During the 105th to the 109th meetings of the Council, Raymond Wolfe (Jamaica) served as President of the Council pro tem. At the 110th meeting, on 14 August 2006, Mariusz-Orion Jedrysek (Poland) was elected President of the Council for 2006. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Japan (Asian Group), Argentina (Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Germany (Western European and Other States Group), Cameroon (African Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Report of the Legal and Technical Commission

4. At its 109th meeting, on 11 August 2006, the Council received the report of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the twelfth session (ISBA/12/C/8). The Council took note of the contents of the report and thanked the outgoing members of the Commission for their contribution to the work of the Authority. The Secretary-General stated that the members of the Commission had displayed the necessary objectivity and professionalism and had set a good standard for future Commissions. He informed the Council that he had presented certificates of appreciation to the outgoing members of the Commission.

Election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission

5. At its 111th meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Council, having regard to the provisions of article 163, paragraph 2, of the 1982 United Nations Convention on

the Law of the Sea, decided to increase the size of the Legal and Technical Commission to 25 members, without prejudice to future elections. The Council then elected the following candidates nominated by members of the Authority as members of the Commission for a five-year term of office commencing on 1 January 2007: Frida María Armas Pfirter (Argentina), Jean-Marie Auzende (France), David Stewart Martin Billett (United Kingdom), Laleta Davis-Mattis (Jamaica), Walter De Sá Leitão (Brazil), Baïdy Diène (Senegal), Miguel Dos Santos Alberto Chissano (Mozambique), Elva G. Escobar (Mexico), Sergey Ivanovich Fyodorov (Russian Federation), Kennedy Hamutenya (Namibia), Saïd S. Hussein (Kenya), Yoshiaki Igarashi (Japan), Asif Inam (Pakistan), Emmanuel Kalngui (Cameroon), Woong-Seo Kim (Republic of Korea), Eusebio Lopera Caballero (Spain), Andrzej Przybycin (Poland), Mahmoud Samy (Egypt), Elena Sciso (Italy), Sudhakar Maruthadu (India), Isikeli Uluinairai Mataitoga (Fiji), Sandor Mulso Flores (Chile), Adam Mulawarman Tugio (Indonesia), Michael Wiedicke-Hombach (Germany) and Hongtao Zhang (China).

6. The Council also decided to request the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration by the Council at its next session, a report on considerations relating to the future size and composition of the Legal and Technical Commission and the process for future elections. The decision of the Council relating to the election of the Legal and Technical Commission is contained in document ISBA/12/C/11.

Budget of the Authority for the financial period 2007-2008 and scale of assessments for contributions of members of the Authority

7. The Council considered the proposed budget of the Authority for the financial period 2007-2008 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/12/A/3/Rev.1-ISBA/12/C/4/Rev.1). In considering the proposed budget, the Council took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in its report of 11 August 2006 (ISBA/12/A/7-ISBA/12/C/9). The Council decided to recommend to the Assembly for adoption the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2007-2008 in the amount of \$11,782,400, as proposed by the Secretary-General. The Council also decided to recommend to the Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2007 and 2008 based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for 2006 and 2007, taking into account that the maximum assessment rate will be 22 per cent and the minimum rate 0.01 per cent.

8. The Council also considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee relating to the establishment of an Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area. Following consideration of this matter, the Council decided to recommend to the Assembly to adopt, with minor amendments, the draft resolution proposed by the Finance Committee.

9. The decision of the Council on the budget and related matters is contained in document ISBA/12/C/10.

Consideration of the draft regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area

10. As agreed at the eleventh session, the Council resumed consideration of the draft regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area.

11. The Council recalled that, during the eleventh session, it had undertaken a first reading of the draft regulations. As a result of that first reading, the Council identified a number of substantive issues for further consideration. At the same time, the Council had requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised text of the draft regulations incorporating certain minor revisions agreed upon at the preceding session. That text had been made available to the Council as document ISBA/10/C/WP.1/Rev.1.

12. The Council also recalled that it had requested further explanation and clarification with respect to certain aspects of the draft regulations. Specifically, the Council was concerned with the following matters:

- (a) Clarification of the relationship between prospecting and exploration;
- (b) A more detailed analysis of the proposed system for participation by the Authority;
- (c) A more detailed analysis of the provisions relating to protection and preservation of the marine environment; and
- (d) Further information on the proposed system for allocation of exploration areas and an illustration of the way in which it might work in practice.

13. It was noted that the Secretariat had responded to the Council's request by preparing a series of technical information papers (ISBA/12/C/2 and ISBA/12/C/3).

14. At the 106th meeting, on 8 August 2006, the Council was provided with a briefing on the technical issues dealt with in documents ISBA/12/C/2 and ISBA/12/C/3. The briefing was given by the Secretariat with the assistance of technical experts, Dr. James Hein and Dr. Charles Morgan. In addition, Dr. Morgan presented to the Council a report on the preliminary outcomes of a workshop on technical and economic considerations relating to mining of polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts, which had also taken place immediately before the twelfth session. Following a request by the Council, a summary of the workshop recommendations was issued in the form of a document (ISBA/12/C/7). The delegation of the Russian Federation also made a proposal relating to the draft regulations (ISBA/12/C/6).

15. Following extensive discussion of the way in which the Council would address the outstanding technical issues with respect to the draft regulations, it was agreed that the Secretariat should attempt to revise the draft regulations further in the light of the outcomes of the technical workshop and in the light of the presentations, proposals and discussions in the Council during the twelfth session. In revising the draft, separate sets of regulations will be prepared for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts. In considering the revised draft regulations, the Council recommended that the Legal and Technical Commission should give priority to the regulations relating to polymetallic sulphides, so that the Council can be in a position to give substantive consideration to regulations for polymetallic sulphides in 2007. It was agreed that the revised draft would be circulated to the outgoing members of the Legal and Technical Commission before 31 December 2006 for comment using the Commission's website, following which the draft would be made available to member States. In this regard, the Council requested that the revised draft regulations be made available in sufficient time for delegations to consider the technical issues well in advance of the thirteenth session. The incoming Legal and

Technical Commission would then review the draft regulations for cobalt-rich crusts and submit them for consideration by the Council in 2008.

Next meeting of the Council

16. The next meeting of the Council will be held in 2007. It was noted that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would, in due course, nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Council in 2007.
