

**ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2019 TO  
2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE  
CONVENTION**

Note by the Secretariat

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of one-half of the members of the Council for the period 2019 to 2022.

2. In accordance with paragraph 15, of section 3, 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 (“the Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals<sup>1</sup> to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group [**Group A**];

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals [**Group B**];

---

<sup>1</sup> In this document the statistics used relate to the primary production of nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese from areas under the jurisdiction of States parties and exports of said ores.

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies [**Group C**];

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States [**Group D**];

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Western Europe and Others [**Group E**].

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asia and Pacific Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.”<sup>2</sup> It was understood, therefore, that for the period 2017 to 2020 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

---

<sup>2</sup> ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1. The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 47 member States.

- (a) In the first year (2017), the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Group would occupy six seats;
- (b) In the second year (2018), the Western European and Others Group Asia and Pacific Group would occupy seven seats;
- (c) In the third year (2019), the African Group would occupy nine seats;
- (d) In the fourth year (2020), the Asia and Pacific Group would occupy eight seats.

As agreed, the regional group which relinquishes a seat has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without a vote during the period of relinquishment.

Since the election of Morocco to the Council,<sup>3</sup> the composition of the Council stands at 36 members. Consequently, there has been no need in applying the rotation formula and consequently no need for the relinquishment of a seat in rotation since 2016 in accordance with the above understanding.

4. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 17 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2016. A vacancy-filling election was held on 21 July 2016 when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years each from 2017 through 2020, subject to the understandings reached in the interest groups and regional groups (ISBA/22/A/12/Rev.1):

**Group A:** China, Japan

**Group B:** India

**Group C:** Canada, South Africa

**Group D:** Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda

**Group E:** Algeria, Argentina, Côte d’Ivoire, Czech Republic, Netherlands,<sup>4</sup> Panama, Poland, Spain,<sup>5</sup> Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> At its 168th meeting of the twenty-third annual session of the Authority in 2017, the Assembly endorsed the election of Morocco to the Council for the remainder of a four-year term to expire on 31 December 2020 (ISBA/23/A/14).

<sup>4</sup> The Netherlands is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2020).

## II. ELECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2019 TO 2022

5. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly, the terms of office of 17 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2018. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

### **Group A (4 members)**

6. The current composition of Group A is **Japan** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), the **Russian Federation** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **Italy**<sup>7</sup> (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **China** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020). Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2019 to 2022.

### **Group B (4 members)**

7. The current composition of Group B is **India** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), the **Republic of Korea** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **France** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018) and **Germany**<sup>8</sup> (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018). Three vacancies will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2019 to 2022.

### **Group C (4 members)**

8. The current composition of Group C is **Australia**<sup>9</sup> (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **South Africa** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Canada** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31

---

<sup>5</sup> Spain is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2018.

<sup>6</sup> The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Italy would relinquish its seat in Group A in favour of the United States if the United States became a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election to the Council.

<sup>8</sup> Germany is re-elected for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that Belgium will occupy the seat in Group B for the year 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Australia is re-elected for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that in 2017 it will relinquish its seat in Group C to Indonesia. Australia will be a member of Group E in 2017.

December 2020), **Chile** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018)<sup>10</sup>. Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2019 to 2022.

#### **Group D (6 members)**

9. The current composition of Group D is **Bangladesh** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Brazil** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Uganda** (re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020), **Fiji** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **Jamaica** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **Lesotho** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018). Three vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2019 to 2022.

#### **Group E (18 members)**

10. The current composition of Group E is Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia<sup>11</sup>, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore and Tonga (re-elected/elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018). Algeria, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Morocco<sup>12</sup>, Netherlands<sup>13</sup>, Panama, Poland, Spain<sup>14</sup>, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>15</sup> were elected in 2016 and 2017 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2020. Seven vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2019 to 2022.

11. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period 2017 to 2020 is provided as **Annex I**.

12. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority which are potential members of the groups defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the Agreement is provided as **Annex II**.

---

<sup>10</sup> Chile was re-elected for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that Chile will be a member of Group E in 2018.

<sup>11</sup> Indonesia is re-elected to the Council for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that in 2017 it will relinquish its seat in Group E to Australia and will occupy the seat in Group C relinquished by Australia, and in 2018 Indonesia will relinquish its seat in Group E to Chile and will occupy the seat in Group C relinquished by Chile.

<sup>12</sup> See note 3 above.

<sup>13</sup> See note 4 above.

<sup>14</sup> See note 5 above.

<sup>15</sup> See note 6 above.

## ANNEX I

	2017	2018	2019	2020
	<b>Group A (4 members)</b>			
1	China	China	China	China
2	Italy	Italy		
3	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan
4	Russian Federation	Russian Federation		
	<b>Group B (4 members)</b>			
5	France	France		
6	Germany	Germany		
7	India	India	India	India
8	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea		
	<b>Group C (4 members)</b>			
9	Indonesia	Australia		
10	Chile	Indonesia		
11	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada
12	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa
	<b>Group D (6 members)</b>			
13	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
14	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil
15	Lesotho	Lesotho		
16	Fiji	Fiji		
17	Jamaica	Jamaica		
18	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda
	<b>Group E (18 members)</b>			
19	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria
20	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina
21	Cameroon	Cameroon		
22	Australia	Chile		
23	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic
24	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire
25	Ghana	Ghana		
26	Mexico	Mexico		
27	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco
28	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Norway
29	Nigeria	Nigeria		
30	Panama	Panama	Panama	Panama
31	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland
32	Singapore	Singapore		
33	Spain	Norway	Spain	Spain
34	Tonga	Tonga		
35	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago
36	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	Norway	United Kingdom

## ANNEX II

### INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT

<b>GROUP A</b> <b>MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS</b> (Derived from lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 of ISBA/24/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	India	Russian Federation
Brazil	Italy	South Africa
China	Indonesia	Spain
Finland	Japan	United States of America*
France	Philippines	Zambia
Germany	Republic of Korea	

\* Non-members of the ISA

<b>GROUP B</b> <b>MAJOR INVESTORS</b> (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/24/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Czech Republic	Netherlands	United States of America*

\*Non-member of the ISA

<b>GROUP C</b> <b>MAJOR NET EXPORTERS AND DEVELOPING STATE MAJOR EXPORTERS</b> (Derived from list 6 of ISBA/24/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	China	Peru*
Brazil	Democratic Republic of Congo	Russian Federation South Africa
Canada	Indonesia	South Africa
Chile	Gabon	*United States of America

\* Non-member of the ISA

<b>GROUP D</b> <b>GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS</b> (Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States. Derived from lists 6 to 13 of ISBA/24/A/CRP.2. Countries in italic are non-members of the ISA)		
Algeria	Gabon	Nepal
Angola	Gambia, the	Nigeria
Antigua and Barbuda	Ghana	Niue
Argentina	Grenada	Oman
Bahamas	Guinea	Pakistan
Bahrain	Guinea-Bissau	Palau
Bangladesh	Haiti	Papua New Guinea
Barbados	India	Paraguay
Belize	Indonesia	Peru
Benin	Iraq	Philippines, the
Bolivia	Jamaica	Qatar
Botswana	Jordan	Republic of Korea
Brazil	Kiribati	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cameroon	Kuwait	Saint Lucia
Cape Verde	Lao People's Democratic Republic,	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Chad Chile	Liberia Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	Samoa Sao Tome and Principe
China Comoros Congo Cook Islands Côte d'Ivoire Cyprus Cuba Democratic Republic of Congo Djibouti Dominica	Madagascar Malaysia Maldives Mali Malta Marshall Islands, the Mauritania Mauritius Mexico Micronesia (Federated States of)	Saudi Arabia Senegal Serbia Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa Sri Lanka
Dominican Republic Equatorial Guinea Fiji	Mongolia Montenegro Mozambique Myanmar Nauru	Sudan Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Togo Tonga Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Yemen Zambia

## GROUP E

### MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS

(Derived from list 14 of ISBA/24/A/CRP.2)

AFRICAN GROUP (47 MEMBERS)					
1	<b>Algeria</b>	17	<b>Gabon</b>	33	<b>Niger</b>
2	<b>Angola</b>	18	<b>Gambia</b>	34	<b>Nigeria</b>
3	<b>Benin</b>	19	<b>Ghana</b>	35	<b>Sao Tome and Principe</b>
4	<b>Botswana</b>	20	<b>Guinea</b>	36	<b>Senegal</b>
5	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	21	<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	37	<b>Seychelles</b>
6	<b>Cameroon</b>	22	<b>Kenya</b>	38	<b>Sierra Leone</b>
7	<b>Cape Verde</b>	23	<b>Lesotho</b>	39	<b>Somalia</b>
8	<b>Chad</b>	24	<b>Liberia</b>	40	<b>South Africa</b>
9	<b>Comoros</b>	25	<b>Madagascar</b>	41	<b>Sudan</b>
10	<b>Congo</b>	26	<b>Malawi</b>	42	<b>Togo</b>
11	<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	27	<b>Mali</b>	43	<b>Tunisia</b>
12	<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	28	<b>Mauritania</b>	44	<b>Uganda</b>
13	<b>Djibouti</b>	29	<b>Mauritius</b>	45	<b>United Republic of Tanzania</b>
14	<b>Egypt</b>	30	<b>Morocco</b>	46	<b>Zambia</b>
15	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	31	<b>Mozambique</b>	47	<b>Zimbabwe</b>
16	<b>Eswatini</b>	32	<b>Namibia</b>		

ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (45 MEMBERS)					
1	<b>Bahrain</b>	16	<b>Lebanon</b>	31	<b>Qatar</b>
2	<b>Bangladesh</b>	17	<b>Malaysia</b>	32	<b>Republic of Korea</b>
3	<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	18	<b>Maldives</b>	33	<b>Samoa</b>
4	<b>China</b>	19	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	34	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>
5	<b>Cook Islands</b>	20	<b>Micronesia (Federated States of)</b>	35	<b>Singapore</b>
6	<b>Cyprus</b>	21	<b>Mongolia</b>	36	<b>Solomon Islands</b>
7	<b>Fiji</b>	22	<b>Myanmar</b>	37	<b>Sri Lanka</b>
8	<b>India</b>	23	<b>Nauru</b>	38	<b>State of Palestine</b>
9	<b>Indonesia</b>	24	<b>Nepal</b>	39	<b>Thailand</b>
10	<b>Iraq</b>	25	<b>Niue</b>	40	<b>Timor-Leste</b>
11	<b>Japan</b>	26	<b>Oman</b>	41	<b>Tonga</b>
12	<b>Jordan</b>	27	<b>Pakistan</b>	42	<b>Tuvalu</b>
13	<b>Kiribati</b>	28	<b>Palau</b>	43	<b>Vanuatu</b>
14	<b>Kuwait</b>	29	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	44	<b>Viet Nam</b>
15	<b>Lao People's Democratic Republic</b>	30	<b>Philippines</b>	45	<b>Yemen</b>

<b>EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (23 MEMBERS)</b>					
1	<b>Albania</b>	9	<b>Estonia</b>	17	<b>Romania</b>
2	<b>Armenia</b>	10	<b>Georgia</b>	18	<b>Russian Federation</b>
3	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	11	<b>Hungary</b>	19	<b>Serbia</b>
4	<b>Belarus</b>	12	<b>Latvia</b>	20	<b>Slovakia</b>
5	<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	13	<b>Lithuania</b>	21	<b>Slovenia</b>
6	<b>Bulgaria</b>	14	<b>Montenegro</b>	22	<b>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
7	<b>Croatia</b>	15	<b>Poland</b>	23	<b>Ukraine</b>
8	<b>Czech Republic</b>	16	<b>Republic of Moldova</b>		

<b>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES GROUP (29 MEMBERS)</b>					
1	<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	11	<b>Dominica</b>	21	<b>Nicaragua</b>
2	<b>Argentina</b>	12	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	22	<b>Panama</b>
3	<b>Bahamas</b>	13	<b>Ecuador</b>	23	<b>Paraguay</b>
4	<b>Barbados</b>	14	<b>Grenada</b>	24	<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>
5	<b>Belize</b>	15	<b>Guatemala</b>	25	<b>Saint Lucia</b>
6	<b>Bolivia</b>	16	<b>Guyana</b>	26	<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>
7	<b>Brazil</b>	17	<b>Haiti</b>	27	<b>Suriname</b>
8	<b>Chile</b>	18	<b>Honduras</b>	28	<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>
9	<b>Costa Rica</b>	19	<b>Jamaica</b>	29	<b>Uruguay</b>
10	<b>Cuba</b>	20	<b>Mexico</b>		

<b>WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES GROUP (23 MEMBERS)</b>					
1	<b>Australia</b>	9	<b>Greece</b>	17	<b>New Zealand</b>
2	<b>Austria</b>	10	<b>Iceland</b>	18	<b>Norway</b>
3	<b>Belgium</b>	11	<b>Ireland</b>	19	<b>Portugal</b>
4	<b>Canada</b>	12	<b>Italy</b>	20	<b>Spain</b>
5	<b>Denmark</b>	13	<b>Luxembourg</b>	21	<b>Sweden</b>
6	<b>Finland</b>	14	<b>Malta</b>	22	<b>Switzerland</b>
7	<b>France</b>	15	<b>Monaco</b>	23	<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b>
8	<b>Germany</b>	16	<b>Netherlands</b>		