



Assembly

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly

Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of Opes Oceani

Note by the secretariat

1. On 12 June 2019, Opes Oceani submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter and additional information provided by the applicant are contained in the annex to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.

* ISBA/25/A/L.1/Rev.1.



Annex

Letter dated 12 June 2019 from Opes Oceani addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, Opes Oceani respectfully requests approval to participate in meetings of the Assembly as a non-governmental organization observer.

Opes Oceani is a private sector company located in Washington, D.C., and Wellington, with additional locations in Switzerland and Panama City. We provide advice on and analyses of global ocean resource management and sustainable development issues that are consistent with responsible economic development in, under and on the surface of the oceans. We serve the fisheries, offshore minerals, oil and gas, maritime and other sectors that utilize ocean resources.

We respectfully request that our application for observer status be considered favourably.

(Signed) Glenn A. **Inwood**
Partner
Opes Oceani

Enclosure

Supporting information

1. Name of organization

Opes Oceani LLC

2. Address, telephone numbers and website

901 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
United States of America

United States: +1 571 527 8228
New Zealand: +64 21 819 504

Website: www.opesoceani.com

3. Names, titles and addresses of proposed primary representatives

Gavin Carter
Partner
901 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
United States of America

Glenn Inwood
Partner
9 Korimako Road
Days Bay
Lower Hutt 5013
New Zealand

4. Aims and purpose of Opes Oceani

Opes Oceani is a specialized information and knowledge service that generates and supplies hard facts, analyses and advice about regulations, global perceptions and other external considerations that could impact the future extraction and utilization of ocean resources. Opes Oceani's services are resource-focused, covering minerals research and exploration, oil and gas extraction, fisheries, pharmaceutical research, shipping and other economic activities that utilize resources in, under and on the surface of the oceans. Our services are utilized only to facilitate and support responsible economic development consistent with the Sustainable Developments Goals adopted by the United Nations, and our clients are from both the private and public sectors. We provide analyses on ocean resource issues to clients, often in the three principal global languages of English, French and Spanish.

5. Structure

Opes Oceani is a private company registered in the United States of America and New Zealand. Through these locations and other locations in Switzerland and Panama, as well as through a network of expert advisers, consultants and academics around the world, Opes Oceani carefully and systematically monitors developments and trends in respect of ocean resource management.

6. History

Opes Oceani was established in 2017, and its two founding partners have extensive experience in ocean resource management issues and in working with global institutions. The company's value proposition is built on the fact that the global economy is rapidly becoming more reliant on ocean resources. As demand for minerals and other ocean resources continues to rise, so does the need for rules-based access to ocean space. In turn, this creates the need to understand the overall regulatory ecosystem and navigate the complexities that can influence, inter alia, investment decisions, shareholder risk, liabilities, national sovereignty, trade and livelihoods. Opes Oceani is dedicated to and equipped for navigating clients through the complex and dynamic web of international influences that have an impact on the future extraction and utilization of ocean resources.

Opes Oceani's founding partners, advisers and consultants typically have worked in the field of resource management and ocean-related industries for more than 25 years.

7. Recent activities

Opes Oceani receives requests from clients for advice and information on a range of ocean resource issues. Issues of particular interest at this time include the current negotiations on the biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea); the development of large marine protected areas, tied to the target of 10 per cent agreed at Nagoya, Japan (Convention on Biological Diversity), and Sustainable Development Goal 14; greenhouse gas strategic targets of the International Maritime Organization for reducing emissions from international shipping; and the development of deep sea ocean mining to meet increasing demand for rare minerals. The developing role of the International Seabed Authority is of increasing interest to many entities involved in the utilization of ocean resources.

There is a growing interrelationship among various international instruments and institutions. Our recent work has included analysing proposed and established large-scale marine protected areas throughout the world and their impact on economic, social and environmental objectives, especially in relation to small island developing States. Another has been to analyse proposals to include commercially exploited aquatic species in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention.

The outcomes of international initiatives and gatherings are of considerable importance to our global client base.

8. Descriptive statement on the extent to which the purposes of Opes Oceani relate to those of the International Seabed Authority, including, in particular, the contributions that can be made to the progress of the Authority

Through its attendance at Assembly meetings, Opes Oceani would hope to contribute to the work of the International Seabed Authority and would be prepared to make oral or written observations on items being considered. Opes Oceani can draw on its broad knowledge of the work being undertaken by various institutions, as well global industrial developments, such as technological advances and new patents, to provide valuable inputs and perspectives on issues under discussion.

Opes Oceani's network of advisers, consultants and academics has the expertise to break down and communicate to government and industry partners the decisions of the Authority.

Opes Oceani's interest lies in improving knowledge among the various ocean stakeholders, including Governments, corporations, researchers and academics or non-profit organizations. Opes Oceani is therefore a useful and cost-free vehicle for the Authority to ensure that information about its work reaches and is understood by a large number of potential stakeholders, thereby establishing a useful synergy.
