



## Assembly

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### Seventh session

Kingston, Jamaica  
2-13 July 2001

## Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at the seventh session

1. The seventh session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica from 2 to 13 July 2001.

### Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 77th meeting, on 2 July 2001, the Assembly adopted its agenda for the seventh session (ISBA/7/A/1). The Assembly also took note of a statement by the representative of Japan, who reminded the members of the Authority that, in December 2000, the General Assembly had established, as from 1 January 2001, a reduced ceiling of 22 per cent for the assessed contribution of any individual Member State to the regular budget of the United Nations.<sup>1</sup> As the scale of assessment of the Authority was based on that of the United Nations, the ceiling rate for the Authority should be adjusted accordingly, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Finance Committee in relation to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002. The representative stated, however, that Japan would defer its request for an adjustment to the ceiling rate to 2002, when the Authority would discuss the budget for the financial period 2003 to 2004.

### Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

3. At the 77th meeting, on 2 July 2001, Mr. Peter Donigi (Papua New Guinea) was elected President of the Assembly for 2001. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the

representatives of Nigeria (African Group), Argentina (Latin American and Caribbean Group), Slovakia (Eastern European Group) and Australia (Western European and Others Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

### Appointment of the Credentials Committee

4. The Assembly elected a Credentials Committee in accordance with rule 24 of its Rules of Procedure. The following were elected as members of the Credentials Committee: Brazil, Greece, Jamaica, Japan, Myanmar, Norway, Senegal, Slovakia and South Africa. Subsequently, Ms. Norma Taylor-Roberts (Jamaica) was elected by the Committee as its Chairman. The Committee met on 5 July 2001. The report of the Committee is contained in document ISBA/7/A/4 and Corr.1. At the 80th plenary meeting, on 10 July 2001, the Assembly adopted the report of the Credentials Committee. The decision of the Assembly relating to credentials is contained in document ISBA/7/A/6.

### Election of the Finance Committee

5. The Assembly was informed by the Secretary-General that, as at 6 July 2001, 15 nominations had been received for membership of the Finance Committee. At its 79th meeting, on 10 July 2001, the Assembly elected the following as members of the Finance Committee for a five-year term commencing on 1 January 2002: Domenico Da Empoli (Italy), Peter Dollekes (Germany), Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia), Ivo

Dreiseitl (Czech Republic), Aung Htoo (Myanmar), Boris G. Idrisov (Russian Federation), Tadanori Inomata (Japan), Liu Jian (China), Jean-Pierre Levy (France), Juliet Kalema Semambo (Uganda), Joseph Samih Matta (Lebanon), Paul McKell (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Narinder Singh (India), Coy Roache (Jamaica), Florentina Adenike Ukonga (Nigeria). The election of the members of the Finance Committee is without prejudice to the overall composition of the Finance Committee for future elections and in particular to the claims of the regional groups.

#### **Staff Regulations of the Authority**

6. At its 79th meeting, on 10 July 2001, the Assembly approved the staff regulations of the Authority (ISBA/7/A/5).

#### **Annual report of the Secretary-General**

7. At the 79th meeting, on 10 July 2001, the Secretary-General introduced his fifth annual report (ISBA/7/A/2), as required by article 166, paragraph 4, of the Convention. In presenting his report, the Secretary-General drew attention to the need to bridge the gap between the technical aspects of the work of the Authority and the broader membership of the Authority. Following the presentation by the Secretary-General, statements were made by the delegations of Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, China, Chile, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Germany, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, the Sudan, the United Kingdom and Yemen. The observer delegation of the United States of America also made a statement.

8. Delegations commended the Secretary-General on the comprehensive nature of the report. The Assembly noted that the work of the Authority was increasingly of a technical nature and in that regard delegations welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to provide the Assembly on future sessions with technical briefings on matters of particular interest to the Authority.

9. The Assembly took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General relating to the future work of the Authority. In particular, the proposal to convene a workshop in 2002 on the prospects for international cooperation and collaboration in marine scientific

research on the deep oceans, with a view to gaining a better understanding of the deep ocean environment, was supported by several delegations. The Secretary-General took note of the need to circulate the agenda for such workshops well in advance and of the need for timely publication of the outcomes of the workshops.

10. Several delegations emphasized the importance for all States parties to the Convention that had not already done so to take the necessary steps to become parties to the Agreement relating to part XI of the Convention. The importance of early entry into force of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the Authority was also stressed and several delegations stated that they would soon be in a position to accede to the Protocol.

11. It was noted that while substantial work had been done to disseminate information concerning the work of the Authority, further improvements could be made, including expanding the coverage of the web site to all six official languages as well as making the Authority's databases accessible through the Internet.

12. The Assembly took note of the long delay in completing a supplementary agreement concerning the headquarters of the Authority. The Secretary-General was urged to continue his efforts to make progress with regard to the supplementary agreement concerning the headquarters of the Authority. In that regard, the representative of Jamaica noted that progress had been made on a number of issues, including the refurbishment of the headquarters building. He accepted the need for transparency in relation to the costs for maintenance of the premises occupied by the Authority and noted that that would be dealt with in the context of the supplementary agreement. The representative of Jamaica also took note of the difficulties encountered by some delegations in obtaining entry visas for Jamaica and undertook to bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

#### **Appointment of auditors**

13. At its 80th meeting, on 10 July 2001, the Assembly decided to reappoint KPMG Peat Marwick to audit the Authority for 2001, without prejudice to future appointments. In recommending the appointment to the Assembly, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Domenico Da Empoli (Italy), noted that he had been able to consult informally on

the matter with eight of the members of the Finance Committee who were present in Kingston and had corresponded with some other members who were not present.

**Next meeting of the Assembly**

14. The next meeting of the Assembly will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 16 August 2002. It was noted that the African Group would, in due course, nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Assembly in 2002, and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Council in 2002.

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/5 C.

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