



Council

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Seventh session

Kingston, Jamaica
2-13 July 2001

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

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

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 70th meeting, on 3 July 2000, the Council adopted the agenda for the seventh session (ISBA/7/C/1).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council

3. At the 70th meeting, on 3 July 2001, Mr. Tadeusz Bachleda-Curus (Poland) was elected President of the Council for 2001. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Indonesia (Asian Group), the Sudan (African Group), Trinidad and Tobago (Latin American and Caribbean Group) and Portugal (Western European and Others Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents. In the absence of Mr. Bachleda-Curus, the meetings of the Council on 3, 4 and 5 July were chaired by Mr. Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) as Vice-President of the Council.

Election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission

4. The Council was informed by the Secretary-General that, as at 4 July 2001, 24 nominations had been received for membership of the Legal and Technical Commission. At the 72nd meeting, on 5 July 2001, following consultations between the regional groups and interest groups, the Council decided, in accordance with article 163, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to increase the size of the Legal and Technical Commission to 24 members, without prejudice to future elections and the claims of the regional groups and interest groups. On the same date, the Council elected the following 24 candidates as members of the Commission: Sami Ahmad Addam (Lebanon), Ferry Adhamhar (Indonesia), Shahid Amjad (Pakistan), Frida Maria Armas Pfirter (Argentina), Helmut Beiersdorf (Germany), Samuel Sonah Betah (Cameroon), Arne Bjørlykke (Norway), Baidy Diéne (Senegal), Galo Carrera Hurtado (Mexico), Walter de Sá Leitão (Brazil), Miguel Dos Santos Alberto

Chissano (Mozambique), Ivan F. Gloumov (Russian Federation), Mohammed M. Gomaa (Egypt), Albert Hoffman (South Africa), Yuji Kajitani (Japan), Jung-Keuk Kang (Republic of Korea), Jean-Pierre Lenoble (France), Yuwei Li (China), Lindsay Murray Parson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), M. Ravindran (India), Giovanni Rosa (Italy), Alfred Thomas Simpson (Fiji), Rodrigo Miguel Urquiza Caroca (Chile) and Inge K. Zaamwani (Namibia). The decision of the Council relating to the election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission is contained in document ISBA/7/C/6.

5. Several members of the Council expressed concern over the imbalance in regional representation in the membership of the Legal and Technical Commission. Some members considered that the requirements for equitable geographic representation and representation of special interests were not being respected. It was noted that the decision of the Council relating to the present election was without prejudice to future elections and the claims of regional groups and interest groups.

6. The Council decided that, for future elections to the Legal and Technical Commission, in order to allow members of the Council adequate time to review the candidacies, nominations and curricula vitae of candidates for election should be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than two months prior to the opening of the session at which the election is to take place. In addition, the Secretariat was requested to consider whether it might be possible to provide the Council with an indication of the likely programme of work for the Commission prior to each election, so that members of the Council could make informed judgements of the type of qualifications needed for members of the Commission.

7. Several members of the Council also reminded the Council of the need for financial assistance to enable effective participation in meetings of the Commission by members from developing countries, noting that the issue had been raised at the fifth session of the Authority in 1999 (ISBA/5/C/11). The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a study of possible modalities for such financial assistance for the next session of the Authority. The Council also recalled its decision recorded in the statement of the President on the work of the Council at the fifth session (*ibid.*, para. 10), whereby the Council had encouraged all members of the Commission to attend meetings of the Commission and requested the Secretary-General, when notifying members of the date of the meeting, to write both to the members individually and to their respective Governments. The Council further recalled its request to the Secretary-General that, in the case of members who had failed to attend consecutive meetings of the Commission, the Secretary-General should try to ascertain whether such members intended to maintain their seats on the Commission.

Status of contracts for exploration issued in accordance with the Regulations for Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area

8. The Secretary-General reported to the Council on the status of contracts for exploration. The Council noted with satisfaction the signature of contracts with China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Company (China), Deep Ocean Resources Development Company Ltd. (Japan), Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Russian Federation), Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer/Association

française pour l'étude et la recherche des nodules (IFREMER/AFERNOD) (France), the Republic of Korea and the State enterprise Yuzhmorgeologiya (Russian Federation). The Council expressed the hope that the contract with the Government of India would be concluded in the near future.

Report of the Legal and Technical Commission

9. At its 74th meeting, on 6 July 2001, the Council received the report of the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the seventh session (ISBA/7/C/5). The Council noted the contents of the report and further noted that, in accordance with regulation 38 of the Regulations for Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area, the Commission had adopted and issued its recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area (ISBA/7/LTC/1/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The Council decided that further consideration should be given to the recommendations at its next session, as may be necessary.

10. The Council also acknowledged the contribution of the outgoing members of the Commission to the work of the Authority.

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

11. The Secretary-General introduced a paper prepared by the Secretariat on considerations relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area (ISBA/7/C/2). The Council was also provided with an audio-visual briefing on the characteristics of polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts and their known locations.

12. The Council held extensive discussions on how to proceed with the consideration of the issues contained in the paper. Following its discussions, the Council decided to continue consideration of issues relating to the elaboration of regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area at its next session in order to give the members of the Council the opportunity to consider further the important conceptual issues involved so as to enable it to take the necessary decisions. The Council also decided to request the Secretariat to collect and assemble the necessary information to facilitate further discussion in the Council on important considerations raised in the Secretariat paper and to assist the Legal and Technical Commission in its work. The Council further decided that, in the meantime, the Legal and Technical Commission would commence consideration of the issues involved in the elaboration of regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area.

Next meeting of the Council

13. The next meeting of the Council will be held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 16 August 2002.