

21 September 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letter dated 2 September 2020, concerning the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority.

Further to the proposal contained in my letter, to which no objection was received, as well as in view of the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 14 September 2020 concerning the submission of credentials in view of the resumption of the session of the Council, I hereby declare, in my capacity as Acting President of the twenty-sixth session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority, that the second part of the session resumes as of today.

Furthermore, I am pleased to attach a draft decision that would allow the adoption by the Council of decisions by the silence procedure similar to that contained in General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020, entitled "Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic".

As indicated in my letter of 2 September, I wish to recall in this regard that: (i) decisions taken by the Council by the silence procedure would relate, in particular, to the election of the President of the Council and the organization of work; and (ii) the adoption of the proposed silence procedure would not amount to an amendment to the relevant rules of procedure of the Council (ISBA/C/12). All decisions adopted by the silence procedure would be taken note of by the Council at its first face-to-face meeting.

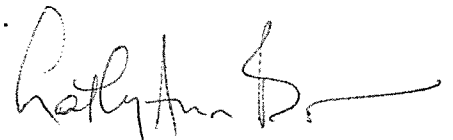
The draft decision will be deemed to be adopted by the Council if no objections are received by the Secretariat by 5 pm Jamaican time on 24 September 2020. Objections to the draft decision should be done in a letter or a note verbale addressed to the Acting President of the Council. Such correspondence should be sent in an email to Council2020@isa.org.jm.

I will convey the outcomes of the consultations on the silence procedure by a letter addressed to the Members of the Council.

I seize this opportunity to communicate that if the draft decision is adopted, on 28 September 2020, I will circulate another letter relating to the election of the President of the Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Kathy-Ann Brown
Acting President of the Council for the twenty-sixth
session of the Council



ANNEX

Draft Decision on the procedure for the adoption of decisions by the Council during the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the International Seabed Authority owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Noting with concern the situation related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the guidance provided by the World Health Organization Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of COVID-19¹ aimed at containing risks of transmission,

1. *Authorizes* the Acting President of the twenty-sixth session of the Council and the President following his or her election, to circulate, after consultation with the Bureau, draft decisions of the Council under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours regarding matters of a procedural nature such as the election of the President of the twenty-sixth session of the Council and the organization of work;
2. *Decides* that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the twenty-sixth session of the Council shall take note of the decision at its first face-to-face meeting convened as soon as circumstances allow, and that this decision on the procedure for taking of decisions of the Council of the Authority shall be in effect until such a first face-to-face meeting of the second part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council.

¹ Interim guidance, 29 May 2020, available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/10665-332235>.