



Council

Distr.: Limited
18 July 2022

Original: English

Twenty-seventh session

Council session, part II

Kingston, 18–29 July 2022

Agenda item 16

Budget of the International Seabed Authority

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to financial and budgetary matters

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee of the International Seabed Authority,¹

1. *Recommends* that the Assembly of the Authority approve the budget for the financial period 2023–2024 in the amount of \$22,256,000, as proposed by the Secretary-General in document [ISBA/27/A/3/Add.1-ISBA/27/C/22/Add.1](#), following review by the Committee, to enable the Authority to deliver on its mandate in line with the evolutionary approach and the need to ensure that the Authority is equipped with the capacity and resources necessary to fulfil its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982;²

2. *Adopts* the revised terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council of the Authority from developing States in the meetings of the Council as contained in the annex to the present decision;

3. *Recommends* that the Assembly adopt the following draft decision:

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

1. *Approves* the budget for the financial period 2023–2024 in the amount of \$22,256,000, as proposed by the Secretary-General;³

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2023 and 2024 on the basis of the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for the period 2022–2024, taking into account that

¹ See [ISBA/27/A/8-ISBA/27/C/36](#).

² Section 1, paragraph 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.

³ See [ISBA/27/A/3/Add.1-ISBA/27/C/22/Add.1](#).



the maximum assessment rate will be 22 per cent and the minimum rate 0.01 per cent;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General, for 2023 and 2024, to transfer between sections, subsections and programmes up to 15 per cent of the amount of each section, subsection or programme;

4. *Urges* the members of the Authority to pay as soon as possible their assessed contributions to the budget on time and in full;

5. *Calls upon* members of the Authority with outstanding contributions to the budget of the Authority, including from the period 1998–2021, to pay them as soon as possible, to enable the Authority to deliver effectively on its mandate.

Annex

Revised terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority from developing States in the meetings of the Council

1. Pursuant to the financial regulations of the International Seabed Authority, a voluntary trust fund has been established to support the participation of members of the Council of the Authority from developing States.

I. Object and purpose of the trust fund

2. In its decision [ISBA/23/A/13](#) dated 18 August 2017 relating to the final report on the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council from developing States in the second annual meeting of the Council.

3. The objective of the fund is to defray the cost of participation of members of the Council from developing States in the annual session of the Council scheduled for the period 2022–2024.

II. Establishment

4. The fund is established pursuant to financial regulation 5.5 and shall be administered in accordance with the financial regulations of the Authority, as provided for in financial regulation 5.6.

III. Contributions to the fund

5. Member States, observers and other stakeholders are encouraged to contribute financially to the voluntary trust fund. Other stakeholders may include but are not limited to: other States; contractors with the Authority; relevant international organizations; academic, scientific and technical institutions; philanthropic organizations; corporations and private individuals; and non-governmental organizations.

IV. Implementing office

6. The Office for Administrative Service of the Secretariat is the implementing office for the fund and provides the services for its operation.

V. Report on the status of the fund

7. The Secretary-General shall report annually to the Finance Committee for its review of the use and status of the fund. The Secretary-General shall also report annually to the Assembly on the status of the fund.

VI. Terms of reference for the administration of the fund

8. The use of the fund is subject to the following conditions:

(a) A formal request by the Government of the State, containing the name of the delegate to be supported, must be communicated to the Secretariat preferably three months but no later than one month prior to the opening of the respective meeting of the Council. Late requests shall not be considered;

(b) Only members of the Council from developing States are eligible for support from the fund. However, if the amount available in the fund is not sufficient to meet all requests for support, priority shall be given to members of the Council from least developed countries;

(c) The fund shall be used to support the participation of one member of the delegation of a developing State member of the Council per year;

(d) For each member of the Council, only one delegate may benefit from support from the fund;

(e) Support shall be limited to economy class airfare by the most economical and direct route from either the capital or the official place of posting and to a daily subsistence allowance for up to a maximum of 14 days;

(f) The Secretary-General should inform the Government concerned of the outcome of the request in a timely manner.
