



Legal and Technical Commission

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Twenty-eighth session

Legal and Technical Commission session, part I
Kingston, 7–15 March 2023

Agenda of the Legal and Technical Commission

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair.

A. Activities of the contractors

4. Report on the status of the contracts for exploration.
5. Status of the implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and the allocation of training opportunities.
6. Consideration of the annual reports of contractors.¹
7. Report on the periodic reviews of the implementation of plans of work for exploration.
8. Relinquishment of areas under contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

B. Applications for approval of plans of work for exploration

9. Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration, if any.²

C. Regulatory activities of the Authority

10. Development of standards and guidelines for activities in the Area.
11. Development of environmental threshold values.

¹ To be considered in the second part of the session, in July 2023.

² Applications for approval of plans of work for exploration, if any, will be considered in the order of their receipt.



12. Review of the recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area.

D. Environmental management planning

13. Development of a standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans.
14. Review of the draft regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

E. Data management

15. Review of the data management strategy of the Authority for the period 2023–2028.

F. Matters referred to the Commission by the Council

16. Procedure and criteria for consideration of a request for the transfer of rights and obligations under a contract for exploration.
17. Issues related to the sponsorship by States of contracts of exploration in the Area, with particular attention to the test of effective control, as well as issues related to the monopolization of activities in the Area, taking into consideration, in particular, the concept of abuse of a dominant position.
18. Review of the provisions of the regulations on prospecting and exploration relating to the option of offering an equity interest in a joint venture arrangement, with a view to aligning all regulations in that respect and to making a recommendation thereon for consideration by the Council at its next session.
19. Issues associated with the conduct of marine scientific research in exploration areas.
20. Use of the silence procedure in the adoption of decisions by the Commission and improvement of procedures for greater transparency.

G. Other matters

21. Other matters
