



**CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANCY 2023/EOSG/006**  
**Call for Proposal for consultancy services to undertake a study on the workforce**  
**of the future to ensure the sustainable management of deep-sea related activities**  
**for the benefit of humankind**

**Deadline for submission: 15 May 2023**

**BACKGROUND**

1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization through which States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) organize and control all mineral resources related activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind.
2. In August 2022, the Assembly of ISA adopted the first Capacity Development Strategy. This was drafted following a process of stakeholder consultation where comments were received from Member States, intergovernmental organizations and contractors. The strategy offers a solid platform through which ISA can respond to the needs identified by its Members, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developed countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) pursuant to Strategic Directions 5 (Build capacity for developing States) and 6 (Ensure integrated participation by developing States) of the ISA Strategic Plan and High-Level Action plan for 2019-2023.
3. The ISA Secretariat is seeking a consultant with the requisite experience and expertise to carry out a research study as identified in the attached terms of reference (Annex B).
4. Proposals in line with the consultancy goals indicated in the appended Terms of Reference are to be submitted via email to [rfp@isa.org.jm](mailto:rfp@isa.org.jm) on or before 15 May 2023.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

5. It is the responsibility of the potential consultant to ensure that proposals reach ISA on or before the deadline.
6. Proposals must be expressed in English and should be valid for a minimum period of 60 days. The currency for fees quoted must be United States dollars (USD).

7. Potential consultants must complete Annex A and attach it to the proposal.
8. Proposals should thoroughly and sufficiently demonstrate the competence and expertise of the potential consultant to meet the requirements of the Terms of Reference (Annex B).
9. Proposals should include estimations of the total financial cost, including a clear breakdown for main categories of fees and costs, as appropriate.
10. Potential consultants/individual contractors are to send their requests for clarifications or questions regarding this call for proposal via email to [rfp@isa.org.jm](mailto:rfp@isa.org.jm).
11. Submission of a proposal shall be deemed to constitute an acknowledgment by the applicant of the General Conditions of Contracts for the services of Consultants and Individual Contractors (Annex C).
12. ISA implements a zero-tolerance policy on fraud and other proscribed practices, including corruption, unethical practices and obstruction. ISA is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all such acts and practices against ISA and third parties involved in its activities.
13. ISA requests that every potential consultant prevents and avoids conflicts of interest by disclosing clearly to ISA any involvement or possible conflict of interest in the preparation of their proposal.

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**ANNEX A – POTENTIAL CONSULTANT INFORMATION FORM**

Date: (day, month, year)

Page \_\_ of \_\_

1. Full name:
2. Legal address:
3. E-mail address:
4. Provide a general description of related experience:
5. Provide highlights of professional experience in the past five years relevant to the services required:
6. Provide any additional information considered key in meeting/exceeding the requirements of the consultancy:
7. Are there any indicting circumstances of which the ISA should be aware? Please provide details:
8. Signature:

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**ANNEX B – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Organization	International Seabed Authority (ISA)
Reporting to	Head of Staff and Strategic Planning
Application deadline	15 May 2023

**ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT**

Pursuant to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention (1994 Agreement), ISA is mandated to organize and control activities in the Area on behalf of humankind as a whole, while taking the measures necessary to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities. All activities in the Area must be carried out for the benefit of humankind as a whole, taking into consideration the interests and needs of developing States.

ISA must provide for the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area. Such benefits include specific programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities of developing States and technologically less developed States, as well as programmes designed to promote the effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area, including through technical assistance and scientific cooperation programmes in marine science and technology and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

The duty of ISA to develop and implement mechanisms to build capacity for developing States, in accordance with its mandate under UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement, is recognized in the [Strategic Plan](#) and [High-Level Action Plan](#) of ISA for the period 2019–2023. Such mechanisms should be aimed at promoting and encouraging the transfer of technology to developing States and expanding opportunities for participation in activities in the Area. ISA Members have identified that a key challenge lies in the development of mechanisms, including capacity-building programmes, that ensure the fully integrated participation of developing States in activities in the Area at all levels.

Capacity-building and training have been an integral part of ISA's activities since its establishment. Since 2000, various programmes and initiatives have been developed and implemented by ISA to strengthen the capacities of developing States and technologically less

developed States. In general, most of them have been successful, as they created enabling conditions to build the capacities of many individuals while strengthening institutional capacities.

A recent review of the contribution of ISA to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> found that the work of ISA on capacity development and institutional strengthening contributed to Sustainable Development Goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 14 (life below water), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

The context within which ISA is operating is changing rapidly as its regulatory role evolves and as an increasing number of its Members contemplate engaging more actively in its work and in the activities carried out in the Area. In order to respond to the specific actions identified in the High-Level Action Plan of ISA for the period 2019–2023 to operationalize these strategic objectives, the Secretariat, with the assistance of consultants, commissioned a comprehensive review of all capacity-building programmes and initiatives implemented by ISA between 1994 and 2019.<sup>2</sup>

This review led to the development of a dedicated [Capacity Development Strategy](#) adopted by the ISA Assembly in August 2022.

## **CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES**

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Staff and Head of the Strategic Planning Unit, the consultant will undertake a research study on the workforce of the future in the context of activities carried out in the international seabed area (the Area) covering amongst others prospecting, exploration and exploitation as well as anticipated supporting skills not limited to but including processing, supply and logistics, scientific research and technological developments, digitalization, environmental management and monitoring, data analysis and engineering.

## **OUTPUT**

The consultancy is estimated to be undertaken in a total of 35 days leading to the future key milestones:

- 1) Inception report: 7 days
- 2) Draft report #1: 20 days
- 3) Draft report # 2 based on review by ISA: 4 days
- 4) final report: 4 days

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<sup>1</sup> [https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/ISA\\_Contribution\\_to\\_the\\_SDGs\\_2021.pdf](https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/ISA_Contribution_to_the_SDGs_2021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/Review%20Of%20Capacity-Building%20Programmes%20And%20Initiatives%20By%20ISA.pdf>

The outputs of the consultancy should have a special focus on developing countries and the final report should make clear connections with key international agendas such as the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Samoa Pathway for Small Islands Developing States.

## **TERMS OF PAYMENT**

The contract will include a payment schedule based on agreed deliverables.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS**

The potential consultant should possess the following qualifications/skills:

- A Master's degree in international relations, ocean policy, blue economy, international law of the sea, deep sea activities, emerging ocean industries, workforce planning, human resources, capacity development training or related fields.
- Extensive knowledge of conducting similar research studies is an asset.
- Working knowledge and experience with the private sector.
- Familiarization with the work of ISA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- A minimum of 10 years working experience with intergovernmental organizations or national governments is preferred.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Experience in writing technical reports and policy briefs for intergovernmental organizations.
- Excellent public presentation skills at international conference level.
- Ability to deliver outputs against tight timelines.

## **SELECTION/EVALUATION**

All proposals will be reviewed by a committee. Selection will be based on the following:

- the skills and experience of the potential consultant
- the ability to deliver outputs in a timely manner
- the financial proposal

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

## **MODALITIES OF WORK**

The work shall be performed at the consultant's home base with scheduled virtual meetings, as required.

To facilitate timely and accurate outcomes by the potential consultant, ISA will make reasonable and practical efforts to respond promptly to any queries and provide the necessary reference material as identified by the potential consultant, where feasible.

## **MONITORING**

The selected consultant will report to and receive guidance from the Chief of Staff and Head of Strategic Planning in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General or any other officer with delegated authority, who will review and approve the outputs following close consultation and cooperation with the relevant offices in the Secretariat.

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**ANNEX C – GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS FOR THE SERVICES OF CONSULTANTS AND**  
**INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS**

**1. Legal status**

1. The consultant or individual contractor shall have the legal status of an independent contractor vis-à-vis the International Seabed Authority. The contractor [Any representative or employee of the contractor]1 shall not be regarded, for any purposes, as being either a staff member of the Authority, under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the Authority, or an official of the Authority, for purposes of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority. Accordingly, nothing within or relating to the contract shall establish the relationship of employer and employee, or of principal and agent, between the Authority and the contractor.

**2. Standards of conduct**

2. The contractor shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority external to the International Seabed Authority in connection with the performance of the obligations under the contract. Should any authority external to the Authority seek to impose any instructions on the contractor regarding the contractor's performance under the contract, the contractor shall promptly notify the Authority and shall provide all reasonable assistance required by the Authority. The contractor shall not take any action in respect of the performance of the contract or otherwise related to the contractor's obligations under the contract that may adversely affect the interests of the Authority, and the contractor shall perform the obligations under the contract with fullest regard for the interests of the Authority. The contractor warrants that the contractor has not offered and shall not offer any direct or indirect benefit arising from or related to the performance of the contract or the award thereof to any representative, official or employee of the Authority. The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations bearing upon the performance of the obligations under the contract.

3. The contractor acknowledges and agrees that any breach of any of the provisions hereof shall constitute a breach of an essential term of the contract, and, in addition to any other legal rights or remedies available to any person, shall give rise to grounds for termination of the contract. In addition, nothing herein shall limit the right of the Authority to refer any alleged breach of the foregoing standards of conduct to the relevant national authorities for appropriate action.

4. The contractor may not at any time communicate any information to any other person, Government or authority external to the Authority or known to them by reason of their association with the Authority that has not been made public, except in the course of their duties or by authorization of the Secretary-General or any designate by the Secretary-General; nor shall the



contractor at any time use such information to private advantage. These obligations do not lapse upon termination of the contract with the Authority.

### **3. Title rights, copyrights, patents and other proprietary rights**

5. Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by the Authority to the contractor for the performance of any obligations under the contract shall rest with the Authority, and any such equipment shall be returned to the Authority upon completion of work under the contract or when no longer needed by the contractor. Such equipment, when returned to the Authority, shall be in the same condition as when delivered to the contractor, subject to normal wear and tear, and the contractor shall be liable to compensate the Authority for any damage or degradation of the equipment beyond normal wear and tear.

6. The Authority shall be entitled to all intellectual property and other proprietary rights, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how or documents and other materials that the contractor has developed for the Authority under the contract and that bear a direct relation to or are produced, prepared or collected in consequence of, or during the course of, the performance of the contract, and the contractor acknowledges and agrees that such products, documents and other materials constitute works made for hire for the Authority. However, to the extent that any such intellectual property or other proprietary rights consist of any intellectual property or other proprietary rights of the contractor: (a) that pre-existed the performance by the contractor of the obligations under the contract; or (b) that the contractor may develop or acquire, or may have developed or acquired, independently of the performance of the obligations under the contract, the Authority does not and shall not claim any ownership interest thereto, and the contractor grants to the Authority a perpetual licence to use such intellectual property or other proprietary right solely for the purposes of and in accordance with the requirements of the contract. At the request of the Authority, the contractor shall take all necessary steps, execute all necessary documents and, generally, assist in securing such proprietary rights and transferring or licensing them to the Authority in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law and of the contract. Subject to the foregoing provisions, all maps, drawings, photographs, mosaics, plans, reports, estimates, recommendations, documents and other data compiled or received by the contractor under the contract shall be the property of the Authority, shall be made available for use or inspection by the Authority at reasonable times and in reasonable places, shall be treated as confidential and shall be delivered only to authorized officials of the Authority upon completion of work under the contract.

### **4. Confidential nature of documents and information**

7. Information and data that are considered proprietary by either the Authority or the contractor or that are delivered or disclosed by one of them ("discloser") to the other ("recipient") during the course of performance of the contract, and that is designated as confidential ("information") shall be held in confidence and shall be handled as follows: the recipient of such information shall use the same care and discretion to avoid disclosure, publication or dissemination of the discloser's information as it uses with its own similar information that it does not wish to disclose, publish or disseminate, and the recipient may use the discloser's information solely for the purpose for which

it was disclosed. The recipient may not disclose confidential information to any other party unless with the discloser's prior written consent. Subject to and without any waiver of the privileges and immunities of the Authority and its officials, the contractor may disclose information to the extent required by law, provided that the contractor will give the Authority sufficient prior notice of a request for the disclosure of information in order to allow the Authority to have a reasonable opportunity to take protective measures or such other action as may be appropriate before any such disclosure is made. The Authority may disclose information to the extent required pursuant to 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, and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority. The recipient shall not be precluded from disclosing information that is obtained by the recipient from a third party without restriction, is disclosed by the discloser to a third party without any obligation of confidentiality, is previously known by the recipient or is developed at any time by the recipient completely independently of any disclosures hereunder. These obligations and restrictions of confidentiality shall be effective during the term of the contract, including any extension thereof, and, unless otherwise provided in the contract, shall remain effective following any termination of the contract.

8. Confidential information means information that:

- (a) Is by its nature confidential;
- (b) Is designated by the Authority as confidential;
- (c) The contractor knows or ought to know is confidential.

9. Confidential information does not include information that:

- (a) Is or becomes public knowledge by means other than by breach of the contract;
- (b) Is in the possession of the contractor without restriction to disclosure before the date of receipt from the Authority;
- (c) Has been independently developed or acquired by the contractor;
- (d) Was in the possession of the contractor prior to the commencement date of the contract;
- (e) Is obtained by the contractor from a third party that is free to divulge the same.

10. The Authority may at any time require the contractor to give a written undertaking, in a form required by the Authority, relating to the non-disclosure of confidential information. In the written undertaking, the contractor is required to acknowledge that the provisions of article 168 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea related to the responsibilities of the staff of the Authority apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the contractor. The contractor shall promptly arrange for all such undertakings to be given.

## **5. Travel, statement of good health and service-incurred death, injury or illness**

11. If the contractor is required by the Authority to travel beyond commuting distance from his or her usual place of residence, such travel shall be at the expense of the Authority and shall be governed by conditions equivalent to the relevant provisions of the administrative instruction of the Authority on official travel. In such cases, the travel expenses borne by the Authority shall not exceed the cost of travel by the least costly economy class regularly available or its equivalent when by air, unless a higher standard is approved in advance by, or on behalf of, the Secretary-General of the Authority.

12. Prior to the commencement of the contractor's services in any offices or premises of the Authority or before engaging in any travel required by the Authority or connected with the performance of the contract, the contractor shall submit a certificate of good health provided by a medical practitioner for himself or herself, or for the representative or employee concerned, and certify that he or she, or the representative or employee concerned, is in possession of medical or health insurance during the period of the contractor's services. The contractor shall provide such a certificate of good health and certification of the medical or health insurance that includes medical treatment as soon as practicable following the signature of the contract. The contractor warrants the accuracy of any such certificate of good health, including but not limited to confirmation that the contractor has been fully informed regarding the requirements for inoculations for the country or countries to which travel may be authorized.

13. The contractor shall be responsible for assuming all costs that may be incurred in relation to the certificate of good health and medical or health insurance.

14. In the event of the death, injury or illness of the contractor that is attributable to the performance of services on behalf of the Authority under the terms of the contract while the contractor is travelling at the Authority's expense or is performing any services under the contract in any offices or premises of the Authority, [the representative or employee of] the contractor or his or her dependants, as appropriate, shall be entitled to compensation equivalent to that provided under appendix B to the Staff Rules of the Authority.

## **6. Prohibition on assignments and modifications**

15. The contractor may not assign, delegate, transfer, pledge or make any other disposition of the contract, of any part thereof, or of any of the rights, claims or obligations under the contract except with the prior written authorization of the Authority, and any attempt to do so shall be null and void. The terms or conditions of any supplemental undertakings, licences or other forms of agreement concerning any goods or services to be provided under the contract shall not be valid and enforceable against the Authority or in any way constitute an agreement by the Authority thereto, unless any such undertakings, licences or other forms of agreement are the subject of a valid written undertaking by the Authority.

16. No modification or change in the contract shall be valid and enforceable against the Authority unless provided by means of a valid written amendment to the contract signed by the contractor or a duly authorized representative thereof and a duly authorized representative of the Authority.

## **7. Subcontractors**

17. In the event that the contractor requires the services of subcontractors to perform any obligations under the contract, the contractor shall obtain the prior written approval of the Authority for any such subcontractors. The Authority may, at its sole discretion, reject any proposed subcontractor or require such subcontractor's removal without having to give any justification therefor, and such rejection shall not entitle the contractor to claim any delays in the performance or to assert any excuses for the non-performance of any of the obligations under the contract. The contractor shall be solely responsible for all services and obligations performed by its subcontractors. The terms of any subcontract shall be subject to, and shall be construed in a manner that is fully in accordance with, all of the terms and conditions of the contract. The contractor shall not assign work to be performed under the contract to any person other than those accepted by the Authority in the form of written notification.

## **8. Use of the name, emblem or official seal of the authority**

18. The contractor shall not advertise or otherwise make public for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill that the contractor has a contractual relationship with the Authority; nor shall the contractor in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of the Authority or any abbreviation of the name of the Authority in connection with its business or otherwise without the written permission of the Authority.

## **9. Indemnification**

19. The contractor shall indemnify, defend and hold and save harmless the Authority and its officials, agents and employees from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature, including but not limited to all litigation costs and expenses, attorney's fees, settlement payments and damages, based on, arising from or relating to:

(a) Allegations or claims that the use by the Authority of any patented device, any copyrighted material or any other goods or services provided to the Authority for its use under the terms of the contract, in whole or in part, separately or in combination, constitutes an infringement of any patent, copyright, trademark or other intellectual property right of any third party;

(b) Any acts or omissions of the contractor or of any subcontractor or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them in the performance of the contract that give rise to legal liability to anyone not a party to the contract, including, without limitation, claims and liability in the nature of a claim for workers' compensation.

## **10. Insurance**

20. The contractor shall pay the Authority promptly for all loss, destruction or damage to the property of the Authority caused by the contractor or of any subcontractor or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them in the performance of the contract.

21. The contractor shall be solely responsible for taking out and for maintaining adequate liability and property damage insurance required to meet any of the obligations under the contract and in

respect of any tort action or tort claim arising out of the contractor's acts or omissions related to the contract, as well as for arranging, at the contractor's sole expense or at that of its representative or employee, such life, health and other forms of insurance as the contractor may consider to be appropriate to cover the period during which the contractor provides services under the contract. The contractor shall, upon request by the Authority, provide proof of such insurance.

22. The contractor acknowledges and agrees that none of the insurance arrangements that the contractor may make shall in any way be construed to limit the contractor's liability arising under or relating to the contract.

### **11. Encumbrances and liens**

23. The contractor shall not cause or permit any lien, attachment or other encumbrance by any person to be placed on file or to remain on file in any public office or on file with the Authority against any monies due to the contractor or to become due for any work done or against any goods supplied or materials furnished under the contract or by reason of any other claim or demand against the contractor.

### **12. Force majeure and other changes in conditions**

24. In the event of and as soon as possible after the occurrence of any cause constituting force majeure, the contractor shall give notice and full particulars in writing to the Authority of such occurrence or cause if the contractor is thereby rendered unable, wholly or in part, to perform the obligations and meet the responsibilities under the contract. The contractor shall also notify the Authority of any other changes in condition or the occurrence of any event that interferes or threatens to interfere with the contractor's performance of the contract. Not more than 15 days following the provision of such notice of force majeure or other changes in condition or occurrence, the contractor shall also submit a statement to the Authority of estimated expenditures that will likely be incurred for the duration of the change in condition or the event. Upon receipt of the notice(s) required hereunder, the Authority shall take such action as it considers, at its sole discretion, to be appropriate or necessary in the circumstances, including the granting to the contractor of a reasonable extension of time in which to perform any obligations under the contract.

25. If the contractor is rendered permanently unable, wholly or in part, by reason of force majeure to perform the obligations and meet the responsibilities under the contract, the Authority shall have the right to suspend or terminate the contract on the same terms and conditions as provided for below, under "Termination", except that the period of notice shall be five days instead of any other period of notice. In any case, the Authority shall be entitled to consider the contractor permanently unable to perform the obligations under the contract in the case of the contractor's suffering any period of suspension in excess of 30 days.

26. Force majeure as used herein means any unforeseeable and irresistible act of nature, any act of war (whether declared or not), invasion, revolution, insurrection, strikes or other labour disturbances, riots, floods, storms, earthquakes, fires or any other acts of a similar nature or force, provided that such acts arise from causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the contractor.

### **13. Termination**

27. Either party may terminate the contract before the expiry date of the contract, in whole or in part, upon giving written notice to the other party. The period of notice shall be 5 days in the case of contracts for a total period of less than two months and 14 days in the case of contracts for a longer period. The initiation of conciliation or arbitral proceedings, as provided below, shall not be deemed to be a cause for or otherwise to be in itself a termination of the contract.

28. The Authority may, without prejudice to any other right or remedy available to it, terminate the contract forthwith in the event that: (a) the contractor is adjudged bankrupt, is liquidated or becomes insolvent, applies for a moratorium or stay on any payment or repayment obligations, or applies to be declared insolvent; (b) the contractor is granted a moratorium or a stay or is declared insolvent; (c) the contractor makes an assignment for the benefit of one or more of the contractor's creditors; (d) a receiver is appointed on account of the insolvency of the contractor; (e) the contractor offers a settlement in lieu of bankruptcy or receivership; or (f) the Authority reasonably determines that the contractor has become subject to a materially adverse change in the financial condition that threatens to endanger or otherwise substantially affect the ability of the contractor to perform any of the obligations under the contract.

29. In the event of any termination of the contract, upon receipt of notice of termination by the Authority, the contractor shall, except as may be directed by the Authority in the notice of termination or otherwise in writing: (a) take immediate steps to bring the performance of any obligations under the contract to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and, in doing so, reduce expenses to a minimum; (b) refrain from undertaking any further or additional commitments under the contract as of and following the date of receipt of such notice; (c) deliver all completed or partially completed plans, drawings, information and other property that, if the contract had been completed, would have been required to be furnished to the Authority thereunder; (d) complete performance of the work not terminated; and (e) take any other action that may be necessary, or that the Authority may direct in writing, for the protection and preservation of any property, whether tangible or intangible, related to the contract that is in the possession of the contractor and in which the Authority has or may be reasonably expected to acquire an interest.

30. A contractor may terminate the contract if: (a) the Authority is in arrears of any payment due under the contract for more than 30 days; (b) the Authority is in breach of any of the terms or conditions under the contract.

31. In the event of any termination of the contract, the Authority shall only be liable to pay the contractor compensation on a pro rata basis for no more than the actual amount of work performed to the satisfaction of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the contract. Additional costs incurred by the Authority resulting from the termination of the contract by the contractor may be withheld from any amount otherwise due to the contractor from the Authority.

#### **14. Non-exclusivity**

32. The Authority shall have no obligation respecting, and no limitations on, its right to obtain goods of the same kind, quality and quantity, or to obtain any services of the kind described in the contract, from any other source at any time.

#### **15. Taxation**

33. Article 183 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides, inter alia, that within the scope of its official activities, the Authority, its assets and property, its income, and its operations and transactions, authorized by the Convention, shall be exempt from all direct taxation, and that goods imported or exported for its official use shall be exempt from all customs duties. The Authority shall not claim exemption from taxes that are no more than charges for service rendered.

34. In the event that any governmental authority refuses to recognize the exemptions of the Authority from such taxation and customs duties, the contractor shall immediately consult with the Authority to determine a mutually acceptable procedure. The Authority shall have no liability for taxes, duty or other similar charges payable by the contractor in respect of any amounts paid to the contractor under the contract, and the contractor acknowledges that the Authority will not issue any statements of earnings to the contractor in respect of any such payments.

#### **16. Settlement of disputes**

35. **Amicable settlement.** The Authority and the contractor shall use their best efforts to amicably settle any dispute arising out of the contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Where the parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the applicable Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the parties in writing.

36. **Arbitration.** Any dispute between the parties arising out of the contract, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, unless settled amicably as provided above, shall be referred by either of the parties to arbitration in accordance with the applicable UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The number of arbitrators shall be three. The language to be used in arbitral proceedings shall be English. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be based on general principles of international commercial law. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such dispute, controversy or claim.

#### **17. Privileges and immunities**

37. Nothing in or relating to the contract shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the Authority and its officials.

## **18. Miscellaneous**

38. The contract may be executed by parties with the use of electronic signatures in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original but all of which shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

39. The contract embodies the entire agreement and understanding between the contractor and the Authority and supersedes any and all prior agreements and understandings between parties.