

**Council**

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Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2017-2018

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee,¹

1. *Recommends* that the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority approve the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2017-2018, in the amount of \$17,130,700 as proposed by the Secretary-General;

2. *Also recommends* that the Assembly adopt the following draft decision:

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

1. *Approves* the budget for the financial period 2017-2018, in the amount of \$17,130,700 as proposed by the Secretary-General;

2. *Takes note* of the high rate of increase in conference services costs and the cost-saving measures in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General to initiate high-level consultations with the United Nations on this issue and to prepare a report on conference services costs for the Committee in 2017;

3. *Approves* the investment of the Authority's Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area with the United Nations Treasury;

4. *Also approves* an increase in the Working Capital Fund by \$100,000 to a total of \$660,000 and for the increase to be spread evenly over the next two bienniums, to be determined using the Authority's current scale of assessments applied to the total value of the Working Capital Fund;

5. *Takes note* of the Authority's progress in implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

6. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2017 and 2018 on the basis of the scale used for the regular budget of the expenses

¹ See [ISBA/22/A/7-ISBA/22/C/19](#).



of the United Nations for 2016 and 2017, respectively, taking into account that the ceiling assessment rate will be 22 per cent and the floor rate 0.01 per cent;

7. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General, for 2017 and 2018, to transfer between appropriation subsections of the administrative budget and between individual programmes, up to 20 per cent of the amount in each subsection, section or individual programme;

8. *Takes into account* the Committee's comments on the interim report on the periodic review of the Authority pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea² and comments of the Review Committee established to oversee the review;

9. *Urges* the members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget on time and in full;

10. *Notes with concern* the increasing amounts of outstanding contributions, appeals yet again to the members of the Authority to pay outstanding contributions to the budget of the Authority from previous years as soon as possible, and requests the Secretary-General, at his discretion, to continue his efforts to recover these amounts;

11. *Strongly encourages* members to make voluntary contributions to the Endowment Fund and Voluntary Trust Fund of the Authority.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.