



Information Note on matters to be considered by the Assembly at the Twenty-Eighth Session

24 - 28 July 2023, Kingston

Introduction

1. The meeting of the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly will be held from 24 to 28 July 2023, in Kingston, Jamaica, at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The purpose of this note is to provide members and observers of the Authority with information on matters for consideration by the Assembly during this session. This note briefly elaborates on the items contained in the provisional agenda of the Assembly (ISBA/28/A/L.1).
2. ISBA/28/A/L.1, indicative program of work and other official documents prepared for the upcoming meetings have been placed on the Authority's website. The website will continue to be updated as more documents become available.

Opening of the session

3. The twenty-eighth session of the Assembly is to be declared open on Monday 24 July 2023 by the President of the twenty-seventh session of the Assembly and is scheduled to close on Friday 28 July 2023.

Election of the President and vice presidents

4. The meetings of the Assembly will commence with the adoption of ISBA/28/A/L.1, followed by the election of a President and Vice Presidents for the twenty-eighth session. This session, it will be the turn of the African States to nominate a candidate for the presidency of the Assembly for the twenty-eighth session. Each of the other regional groups will nominate a Vice-President. The President and Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau which could meet periodically throughout the session to review the progress of the work of the Assembly.

Credentials Committee

5. Pursuant to Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, a Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session (Provisional agenda item 5). The Credentials Committee shall consist of nine members of the Assembly, who shall be appointed by the Assembly upon the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives of members and report to the Assembly without delay (Provisional agenda item 15). A meeting of the Credentials Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 26 July 2023 between 2:00-2:45pm.
6. To facilitate the smooth running of the session, the Secretariat would be grateful if regional groups could coordinate on the issue of candidatures for the positions of President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly as well as members of the Credentials Committee in advance of the session and communicate nominations to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (secretary-General@isa.org.jm).

Observer status requests

7. The Assembly will consider requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly (Provisional agenda item 6), and the Guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority (Annex, ISBA/25/A/16). For this session, a total of seven requests for observer status were received by the Secretary-General from the following entities: China Biodiversity Conservation (ISBA/28/A/INF/1); the Te Ipukarea Society (ISBA/28/A/INF/2); Norwegian Forum on Marine Metals (ISBA/28/A/INF/3); Arayara International Institute (ISBA/28/A/INF/4); Minderoo Foundation (ISBA/28/A/INF/5); Sustainable Ocean Alliance (ISBA/28/A/INF/6) and International Council on Mining and Metals (ISBA/28/A/INF/7).

Election to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee

8. The Assembly will hold an election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of 2 the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (Provisional agenda item 7). In this respect, A report has been prepared for the consideration of the Assembly (ISBA/28/A/9).

Statement of the President of the Council

9. The President of the Council for the twenty-seventh session, Mr. Juan José González Mijares (Mexico) will introduce his statement on the work of the Council (Provisional agenda item 11) for Part I held 16 to 31 March 2023 (ISBA/28/C/11) and Part II to be held from 10 to 21 July 2023 (ISBA/28/C/11/Add.1).

Annual report of the Secretary-General

10. As a regular item (Provisional agenda item 8), the Assembly will consider the annual report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to article 166 (4) of the Convention (ISBA/28/A/2). In line with the usual practice of the meetings of the Assembly, a preliminary list of speakers will be established for this provisional agenda item.

Report of the Finance Committee

11. The Assembly will consider the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee (Provisional agenda item 9) (ISBA/28/A/4-ISBA/28/C/13). This will be considered in conjunction with the recommendations of the Council with respect to the supplementary budget of the Authority for the financial period 2023-2024 (Provisional agenda item 10) to support the operationalization of the Enterprise (ISBA/28/A/3-ISBA/28/C/12). The Assembly will be invited to consider and adopt a decision on the supplementary budget.

Draft strategic plan of the Authority for 2024–2028

12. At its twenty-fourth session, the Assembly adopted the strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023 (ISBA/24/A/10). During this session, the Assembly will be invited to take note of a report by the Secretariat on the implementation

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by the Assembly of the Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2023 (ISBA/28/A/6) as well as a report by the Secretariat on the implementation by the Council of the Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2023 (ISBA/28/C/15) and consider the report of the Secretary-General for consideration and adoption of a revised strategic plan for the Authority for the period 2024-2028 (ISBA/28/A/7).

Promoting international cooperation concerning activities in the Area

13. The Assembly will be invited to consider and approve two memoranda of understanding on the promotion of international cooperation for activities in the Area. More information on this will be shared later.

Report on implementation of the Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research

14. The Assembly of the Authority in December 2020 adopted a dedicated action plan in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research) see (ISBA/26/A/17). During this session, the Assembly will be invited to review a report on the progress made with respect to the implementation of the Action Plan (ISBA/28/A/8).

Proposed amendment to the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission

15. The Assembly will be invited to take note of a report of the Secretariat on the proposed amendment by the fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations to the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission with respect to post adjustment. (ISBA/28/A/5-ISBA/28/C/14)

Dates of the next session

16. At the end of the session, the dates for the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly will be announced (Provisional agenda item 16).

Other matters

17. The Assembly may consider any other matter under provisional agenda item 18.

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