

05

GOVERNING BODIES STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS





International Seabed Authority
28th Session 2023

ARGENTINA

CZECH REPUBLIC

SINGAPORE

INDONESIA

ZIMBABWE

FIJI

GERMAN

SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN

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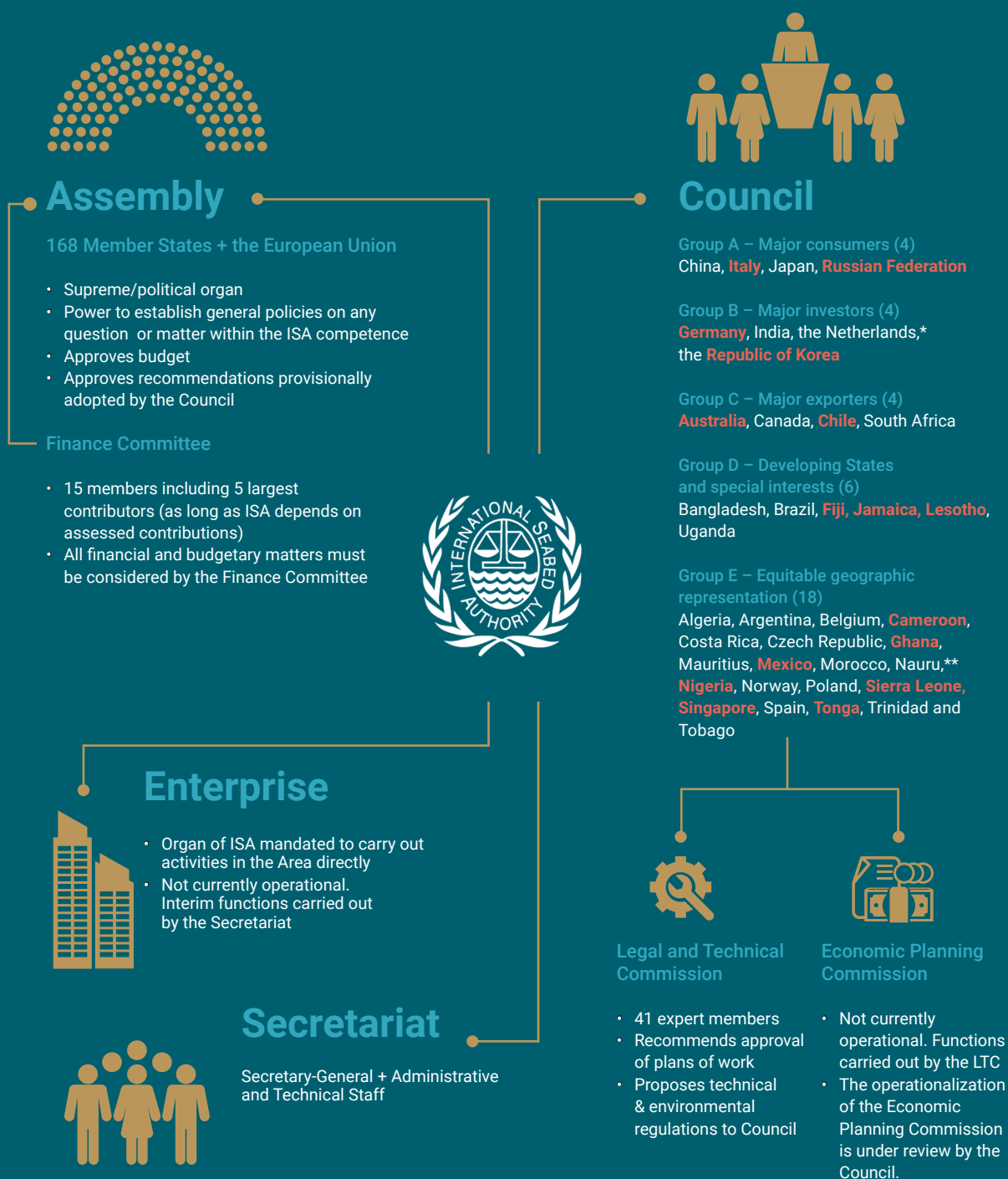
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Structure and functions

Figure 14. Structure and functions of the different organs of ISA



Members elected by the Assembly in August 2022

* France was re-elected for 2023-2026 on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat in Group B to the Netherlands for 2023 (ISBA/27/A/14).

** Indonesia was re-elected in Group E for 2023-2026 on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat in Group E to Nauru for 2023 (ISBA/27/A/14).



Sessions of the governing bodies in 2022-2023

27th session of the Assembly

The 27th session of the Assembly took place from 1 to 4 August 2022 (191st-196th meetings) at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, owing to the unavailability of the Jamaica Conference Centre on account of ongoing renovation work. His Excellency Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, was elected President of the Assembly for the 27th session. In his absence, Mr. Olav Myklebust of Norway (Vice-President) was designated an Acting President.

The Assembly paid tribute to the memory of Nii Allotey Odunton, the second Secretary-General of ISA, who passed away on 13 February 2022.

In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with ISA, the Assembly considered and approved five applications for observer status: the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense, the Ocean Foundation, Cluster maritime français, Oceans North and the World Organization of Dredging Associations.

The Secretary-General presented his annual report for 2022. One regional group, 38 delegations and nine observers made statements during a general debate. The Assembly also took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Action plan of ISA in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and requested the Secretary-General to continue his

efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of the strategic research priorities under the Action Plan. Many delegations welcomed the participation of the Secretariat in the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. They highlighted the importance of ensuring the consistency of such an instrument with UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement and ensuring harmonization, complementarity and coherence between the instrument and the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area through coordination and cooperation.

The Assembly considered the Capacity development strategy of ISA and adopted a decision relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development.⁵⁷

The Assembly considered the report of the Finance Committee and adopted a decision relating to financial and budgetary matters. On the recommendation of the Council, the Assembly adopted the budget of ISA for the financial period 2023-2024 in the amount of USD22,256,000.

The Assembly elected 15 members of the Finance Committee for the period 2023-2027.

The Assembly also elected 18 members of the Council for the period 2023-2026 (**Figure 14**).

57 ISBA/27/A/11.

Box 12.

Special event of the Assembly to commemorate the 40th anniversary of UNCLOS

At the request of the Government of Jamaica as the host country, a special event was held in the afternoon of 1 August 2022 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of UNCLOS on 10 December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, H.E. Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith, made a statement. Two regional groups, 24 delegations and three observers also made statements. Delegations also congratulated the government and the people of Jamaica on the sixtieth anniversary of the independence of Jamaica.

27th session of the Council

The 27th session of the Council was held in three parts, from 21 March to 1 April 2022, from 18 to 29 July 2022, and from 31 October to 11 November 2022.

Mr. Tomasz Abramowski (Poland) was elected the President of the Council for the 27th session.

Throughout the session, the Council continued to advance its priority work on elaborating the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources

in the Area in an informal setting through its different working groups (**Figure 7, Chapter 3**). The Council adopted a road map to guide its work on the draft regulations through July 2023.⁵⁸

The Council considered the reports of the LTC and adopted a decision relating to the implementation of the report.⁵⁹ In July 2022, the Council elected 41 members of the LTC for the period 2023-2027.⁶⁰



Photo: ISA

58 [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2](#), Annex II.

59 [ISBA/27/C/44](#).

60 [ISBA/27/C/41](#) and [ISBA/27/C/41/Add.1](#).

In addition, the Council resumed its consideration of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise.⁶¹ The Council also adopted a decision relating to the possible scenarios and any other pertinent legal considerations in connection with section 1, paragraph 15, of the annex to the 1994 Agreement.⁶²

Acting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Council adopted a decision on financial and budgetary matters.⁶³ It recommended to the Assembly to adopt the budget for the financial period 2023-2024.⁶⁴

The Council approved a memorandum of understanding with the African Union.

28th session of the Council

The 28th session of the Council will be held in three parts, from 16 to 31 March 2023, from 10 to 21 July 2023, and from 30 October to 8 November 2023.

At its meetings in March 2023, the Council elected H.E. Mr. Juan José González Mijares (Mexico) the President for the 28th session.

As co-facilitators of the informal intersessional dialogue to facilitate further discussion on the possible scenarios foreseen in section 1, paragraph 15, of the annex to the Part XI Agreement and on any other pertinent legal

considerations to explore commonalities in possible approaches and legal interpretations for the Council, Belgium and Singapore presented a briefing note to the Council on the progress made on this matter. The Council adopted a decision relating⁶⁵ to the understanding and application of section 1, paragraph 15.⁶⁶

The Council continued its work on the draft regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area following the road map adopted in 2022.⁶⁷



Photo: ISA

61 [ISBA/27/C/14](#), [ISBA/27/C/14/Corr.1](#) and [ISBA/27/C/34](#).

62 [ISBA/27/C/45](#).

63 [ISBA/27/C/40](#).

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

65 [ISBA/27/C/29](#).

66 [ISBA/28/C/9](#).

67 [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2](#).