



Assembly

Advance Unedited Version
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English only

Twenty-eighth session

Kingston, 24–28 July 2023

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Annual report of the Secretary-General under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Report on the implementation of the strategic plan for the Authority for the five-year period 2019–2023 by the Council

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Council recalled that the Assembly, in its decision ISBA/25/A/15 relating to the implementation of the strategic plan for the Authority for the period 2019-2023, committed to the strengthening of existing working practices of the Authority and accordingly, invited members of the Authority and observers, as well as the organs of the Authority, to support the implementation of the strategic plan and the high-level action plan.

2. For the reporting period 2021-2023, the Council has been assigned some responsibilities for thirty-three (33) high-level actions and thirty-eight (38) associated outputs listed in annex II of decision ISBA/25/A/15. In nine cases, no specific output has been identified and therefore, the reporting specifically addresses the high-level action of interest (see high-level actions 2.2.1, 2.3.2, 3.1.4, 3.2.2, 3.2.4, 3.4.3, 3.5.2 and 3.5.4). Accordingly, the total number of items identified for this reporting is forty-seven (47).

3. The Council is identified as “organ responsible” for twenty of these outputs, “associated organ” for twenty-four other outputs and “coordinating organ” for the remaining ones. In order to reflect the different status of completion, particularly the fact that some outputs are recurring, two different sub-categories of progress status have been identified. One relates to the “ongoing” nature of some outputs, understood as requiring ongoing attention and adjustment. The other one relates to the fact that in some cases, because the output is to be reported against a specific reporting period or action, the status of completion is “achieved”.

* [ISBA/28/A/L.1](#).

As of June 2023, 64% (30) of the assigned high-level actions and outputs have been completed when 36% (17) were still in progress. Further information is provided in annex of this report and details of the work undertaken against all outputs have been compiled by the secretariat and are available online at https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ISBA_28_A_2_Add_1_Annex_II.pdf

Recommendation

1. The Assembly is invited to take note of the information provided in this report.

Annex I

Status of completion of high-level actions and associated outputs assigned to the Council for the reporting period 2019-2020

| SDs | Number of relevant items for the reporting | Completed | | In progress | On hold | Status of completion |
|--|--|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|----------------------|
| | | Ongoing | Achieved | | | |
| Strategic direction 1: realize the role of the Authority in a global context | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 50% |
| Strategic direction 2: strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area | 10 | 9 | | 1 | | 90% |
| Strategic direction 3: protect the marine environment | 17 | 6 | 2 | 9 | | 47% |
| Strategic direction 4: promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area | 2 | | | 2 | | 0% |
| Strategic direction 5: build capacity for developing States | 1 | | | 1 | | 0% |
| Strategic direction 6: ensure fully integrated participation by developing States | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | 33% |
| Strategic direction 7: ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits | | | | | | N/a |
| Strategic direction 8: improve the organizational performance of the Authority | 6 | 5 | | 1 | | 83% |
| Strategic direction 9: Commit to transparency | 6 | 6 | | | | 100% |
| Total | 47 | 28 | 2 | 17 | | 64% |