



Note No. ISA/EOSG/2023/325

The Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority presents its compliments to the members of the Council of the Authority and has the honor to transmit to the attached Statement of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council on the recent incidents in the NORI-D Contract Area.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the members of the Council of the Authority the assurances of its highest consideration.

15 December 2023



All Members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority

Statement by the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council on recent incidents in the NORI-D Contract Area

15 December 2023

1. The Bureau of the Council takes note of the Notification by the Secretary-General of immediate measures of a temporary nature taken in respect of the Contract for Exploration for Polymetallic nodules between the International Seabed Authority and Nauru Ocean Resource Inc as well as the Interim Report of the Secretary-General dated 4 December 2023 informing the Council on further developments following the immediate measures undertaken by the Secretary-General.
2. The Bureau notes with concern that the reported protest activities of Greenpeace International on board and in the vicinity of “MV Coco”, the exploration vessel operated by Nauru Ocean Resources Incorporated (NORI), prevented the Contractor from carrying out its lawful exploration activities in the Area, involving a scientific task to collect environmental data in the NORI-D Contract Area on recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission.
3. The Bureau also expresses its concern about the serious threat posed to the safety of the crew and other personnel on board the vessel.
4. The Area is the common heritage of humankind and in view of the shared objectives of the Authority to pursue exploration activities in gathering and assessing environmental data, the Bureau of the Council urges all concerned parties on this matter to work in a constructive and collaborative manner in furtherance of the mandate of the Authority in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
5. Taking note that the Greenpeace vessel, Artic Sunrise, left the NORI-D Contract Area on 4 December 2023, the Bureau invites the Council to address the incidents in the NORI-D Contract Area during Part I of the 29th session of the Authority.
6. The Bureau will remain attentive to different legal instruments and institutional mechanisms that may contribute, beside UNCLOS and ISA, to a solution in this matter.
7. Meanwhile, the Bureau calls upon Greenpeace International to refrain from future actions that could disrupt the contractual activities of NORI on board its vessels or in its contract area. The Bureau further calls upon Greenpeace International to act with due and reasonable regard in conformity with Articles 87 (2) and 147 (3) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.