

Item 19 of the Provisional agenda of the Assembly\*  
**Election to fill the vacancies on the Council, in accordance  
with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention**

**ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2025 TO 2028 IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION**

Note by the Secretariat

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of nineteen of the members of the Council for the period 2025 to 2028.

2. In accordance with section 3, paragraph 15, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (“the Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group **[Group A]**;

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties, which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals **[Group B]**;

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies **[Group C]**;

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States **[Group D]**;

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one

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\* ISBA/29/A/L.1

member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Europe and Others [**Group E**].

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asia-Pacific Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, for the period 2025 to 2028 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

- (a) For the year of 2025, the Group of Asia-Pacific States would relinquish a seat.
- (b) For the year of 2026, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would relinquish a seat.
- (c) For the year of 2027, the Group of Western European and Other States would relinquish a seat.
- (d) For the year of 2028, the Group of African States would relinquish a seat.

4. As agreed, the regional group which relinquishes a seat has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without the right to vote during the period of relinquishment.

5. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 18 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2022. A vacancy-filling election was held during the twenty-seventh session when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years as from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026, subject to the understandings reached in the regional groups and interest groups (see [ISBA/27/A/14](#)):

- Group A:** Italy,<sup>2</sup> Russian Federation
- Group B:** France,<sup>3</sup> Germany,<sup>4</sup> Republic of Korea
- Group C:** Australia, Chile
- Group D:** Fiji,<sup>5</sup> Jamaica, Lesotho,
- Group E:** Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia,<sup>6</sup> Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Tonga<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1. The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 48 member States.

<sup>2</sup> Italy would relinquish its seat in Group A in favour of the United States of America if the United States of America became a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election to the Council.

<sup>3</sup> France was re-elected for a period of four years (2023–2026), on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat in Group B to the Netherlands for the year 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Germany was re-elected for a period of four years (2023–2026), on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat in Group B to the Netherlands for the year 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Fiji was re-elected for a period of four years (2023–2026), on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat in Group D to Nauru for the years 2025 and 2026.

<sup>6</sup> Indonesia was re-elected in Group E for a period of four years (2023–2026), on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat in Group E to Nauru for the year 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Tonga has relinquished its seat to Nauru in 2024.

## **II. ELECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2025 TO 2028**

6. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly, the terms of office of 19 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2024. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

### **Group A (2 members)**

7. **China** and **Japan** were elected on 3 March 2021 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2024. Therefore, two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2025 to 2028.

### **Group B (1 member)**

8. **India** was elected on 3 March 2021 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2024. Therefore, one vacancy will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2025 to 2028.

### **Group C (2 members)**

9. **Canada** and **South Africa** were elected on 3 March 2021 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2024. Therefore, two vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2025 to 2028.

### **Group D (3 members)**

10. **Bangladesh, Brazil** and **Uganda** were elected on 3 March 2021 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2024. Therefore, three vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2025 to 2028.

### **Group E (11 members)**

11. **Argentina, Costa Rica, Czechia, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands,<sup>8</sup> Poland, Sierra Leone,<sup>9</sup> Spain,<sup>10</sup> Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland<sup>11</sup>** were elected on 3 March 2021 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2024. Therefore, eleven vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2025 to 2028.

12. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period from 2023 to 2026 is provided as **Annex I**.

13. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority, which are potential members of the groups, defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the Agreement is provided as **Annex II**.

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<sup>8</sup> The Netherlands was elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat after two years to Belgium for the year 2023 and after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2024).

<sup>9</sup> Sierra Leone was elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat after two years to Algeria for the remainder of the four-year term (2023 and 2024).

<sup>10</sup> Spain was elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2022.

<sup>11</sup> The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2023.

## ANNEX I

### COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 2023 TO 2028

	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>GROUP A (4 members)</b>				
1	China	China		
2	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy
3	Japan	Japan		
4	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
<b>GROUP B (4 members)</b>				
5	Germany*	Germany	Netherlands	Germany
6	India	India		
7	Netherlands	France	France	France
8	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea
<b>GROUP C (4 members)</b>				
9	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia
10	Canada	Canada		
11	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile
12	South Africa	South Africa		
<b>GROUP D (6 members)</b>				
13	Bangladesh	Bangladesh		
14	Brazil	Brazil		
15	Fiji	Fiji	Nauru	Nauru
16	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica
17	Lesotho	Lesotho	Lesotho	Lesotho
18	Uganda	Uganda		
<b>GROUP E (18 members)</b>				
19	Algeria	Algeria		
20	Argentina	Argentina		
21	Belgium	Norway		
22	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon
23	Costa Rica	Costa Rica		
24	Czechia	Czechia		
25	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana
26	Mauritius	Mauritius		
27	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico
28	Morocco	Morocco		
29	Norway	United Kingdom		
30	Nauru	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia
31	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria
32	Poland	Poland		
33	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
34	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore
35	Spain	Spain		
36	Tonga	Nauru	Tonga	Tonga
37	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago		

\* Germany relinquished the seat in 2023. It is the turn for the Group of African States to relinquish a seat in 2024, the Group of Asia-Pacific States in 2025 and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in 2026.

## **ANNEX II**

### **INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT**

<b>GROUP A</b> <b>MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS</b> (Derived from lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 of ISBA/29/A/CRP.2)		
Austria	Gabon	Norway
Australia	Germany	Papua New Guinea
Belgium	Ghana	Philippines
Bulgaria	India	Republic of Korea
Brazil	Indonesia	Russian Federation
Canada	Italy	South Africa
China	Japan	Spain
Côte d'Ivoire	Malaysia	Thailand
Cuba	Mexico	Ukraine
Finland	Namibia	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	Zambia

<b>GROUP B</b> <b>MAJOR INVESTORS</b> (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/29/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom
Czechia	Netherlands	

<b>GROUP C</b> <b>MAJOR PRODUCERS AND NET EXPORTERS*</b> (Derived from list 6 of ISBA/29/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Finland	Papua New Guinea
Brazil	France	Philippines
Canada	Gabon	Poland
Chile	Ghana	Russian Federation
China	India	South Africa
Congo, DR	Indonesia	Ukraine
Côte d'Ivoire	Mexico	Zambia
Cuba	Mongolia	Zimbabwe

\*This group should include at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies.

**GROUP D****GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS**

Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States. Derived under Group D section (Lists 7-13) of ISBA/29/A/CRP.2.

Algeria	Guinea	Panama
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Papua New Guinea
Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana	Paraguay
Argentina	Haiti	Philippines
Armenia	India	Qatar
Azerbaijan	Indonesia	Romania
Bahamas	Iraq	Republic of Moldova
Bahrain	Jamaica	Rwanda
Bangladesh	Jordan	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Barbados	Kiribati	Saint Lucia
Belize	Kuwait	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Benin	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Samoa
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Lesotho	Sao Tome and Principe
Botswana	Liberia	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Macedonia, North	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Madagascar	Serbia
Cabo Verde	Malawi	Seychelles
Cameroon	Malaysia	Sierra Leone
Chad	Maldives	Singapore
Chile	Mali	Solomon Islands
China	Marshall Islands	Somalia
Comoros	Mauritania	South Africa
Cook Islands	Mauritius	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Mexico	Suriname
Cuba	Micronesia, Federated States of	Thailand
Congo, Democratic Rep of the	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
Djibouti	Montenegro	Togo
Dominica	Morocco	Tonga
Dominican Republic	Mozambique	Trinidad and Tobago
Ecuador	Myanmar	Tuvalu
Egypt	Namibia	Uganda
Eswatini	Nauru	United Republic of Tanzania
Fiji	Nepal	Vanuatu
Gabon	Niger	Viet Nam
Gambia	Nigeria	Yemen
Georgia	Niue	Zambia
Ghana	Oman	Zimbabwe
Grenada	Pakistan	
Guatemala	Palau	

**GROUP E**  
**MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS**

**AFRICAN GROUP (48 MEMBERS)**

1	Algeria	17	Gabon	33	Niger
2	Angola	18	Gambia	34	Nigeria
3	Benin	19	Ghana	35	Rwanda
4	Botswana	20	Guinea	36	Sao Tome and Principe
5	Burkina Faso	21	Guinea-Bissau	37	Senegal
6	Cameroon	22	Kenya	38	Seychelles
7	Cape Verde	23	Lesotho	39	Sierra Leone
8	Chad	24	Liberia	40	Somalia
9	Comoros	25	Madagascar	41	South Africa
10	Congo	26	Malawi	42	Sudan
11	Côte d'Ivoire	27	Mali	43	Togo
12	Congo, DR	28	Mauritania	44	Tunisia
13	Djibouti	29	Mauritius	45	Uganda
14	Egypt	30	Morocco	46	United Republic of Tanzania
15	Equatorial Guinea	31	Mozambique	47	Zambia
16	Eswatini	32	Namibia	48	Zimbabwe

**ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (45 MEMBERS)**

1	Bahrain	16	Lebanon	31	Qatar
2	Bangladesh	17	Malaysia	32	Republic of Korea
3	Brunei Darussalam	18	Maldives	33	Samoa
4	China	19	Marshall Islands	34	Saudi Arabia
5	Cook Islands	20	Micronesia (Federated States of)	35	Singapore
6	Cyprus	21	Mongolia	36	Solomon Islands
7	Fiji	22	Myanmar	37	Sri Lanka
8	India	23	Nauru	38	State of Palestine
9	Indonesia	24	Nepal	39	Thailand
10	Iraq	25	Niue	40	Timor-Leste
11	Japan	26	Oman	41	Tonga
12	Jordan	27	Pakistan	42	Tuvalu
13	Kiribati	28	Palau	43	Vanuatu
14	Kuwait	29	Papua New Guinea	44	Viet Nam
15	Lao People's Democratic Republic	30	Philippines	45	Yemen

**EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (23 MEMBERS)**

1	Albania	9	Estonia	17	Republic of Moldova
2	Armenia	10	Georgia	18	Romania
3	Azerbaijan	11	Hungary	19	Russian Federation
4	Belarus	12	Latvia	20	Serbia
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	Lithuania	21	Slovakia
6	Bulgaria	14	Montenegro	22	Slovenia
7	Croatia	15	North Macedonia	23	Ukraine

8	Czech Republic	16	Poland		
<b>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES GROUP (29 MEMBERS)</b>					
1	Antigua and Barbuda	11	Dominica	21	Nicaragua
2	Argentina	12	Dominican Republic	22	Panama
3	Bahamas	13	Ecuador	23	Paraguay
4	Barbados	14	Grenada	24	Saint Kitts and Nevis
5	Belize	15	Guatemala	25	Saint Lucia
6	Bolivia	16	Guyana	26	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
7	Brazil	17	Haiti	27	Suriname
8	Chile	18	Honduras	28	Trinidad and Tobago
9	Costa Rica	19	Jamaica	29	Uruguay
10	Cuba	20	Mexico		
<b>WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES GROUP (23 MEMBERS)</b>					
1	Australia	9	Greece	17	New Zealand
2	Austria	10	Iceland	18	Norway
3	Belgium	11	Ireland	19	Portugal
4	Canada	12	Italy	20	Spain
5	Denmark	13	Luxembourg	21	Sweden
6	Finland	14	Malta	22	Switzerland
7	France	15	Monaco	23	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
8	Germany	16	Netherlands		