

ISBA/28/A/6

**Annex II: Status of implementation by the Council of the relevant high-level actions and associated outputs
for the reporting period 2021-2023**

No. High-level action	Outputs for 2021-2023			
	Description	Responsibility of the Council	Status ¹	Comments
Strategic direction 1: realize the role of the Authority in a global context				
1.4.1 Actively engage with members to achieve the effective and uniform implementation of relevant legal instruments through State practice	(iii) Report on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(See ISBA/27/C/26; ISBA/28/C/16)
1.5.1 Promote and strengthen dialogue among States, relevant international organizations and stakeholders to foster the use of practical tools for mutual “reasonable regard” in order to accommodate activities in the Area and other activities in the marine environment.	Develop practical tools to facilitate the implementation of “reasonable regard”	Associated organ	In progress	Development of provisions for the implementation of article 147 of UNCLOS is ongoing in the context of the elaboration of the Draft exploitation regulations.

¹ The different status used to assess the progress of each high-level actions and/or associated outputs are regrouped in three categories, namely: (i) “completed”, (ii) “in progress”, and (iii) “on hold”. 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”.

Strategic direction 2: strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area				
2.1.1 Promote the development of rules, regulations and procedures covering all phases of deep sea mining activities	(i) Facilitate the review of inputs from the Council and comments from stakeholders on the draft regulations on exploitation	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(See ISBA/26/C/13 , para.15 ; ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1 , para.31; ISBA/26/C/44 ; ISBA/27/C/21 , para.8; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1 , para.13; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2 ; ISBA/27/C/21Add.2 , para.4 ; ISBA/27/C/45; ISBA/28/C/9 ; ISBA/28/C/11).
	(ii) Facilitate consultation on and a review of available options to be taken into consideration for deciding on the financial model	Organ responsible	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the roadmap for the 27th session of the Council in 2022 which was adopted in December 2021, the open-ended working group (OEWG) on the financial terms of a contract held its fifth meeting on 18-19 July 2022. At that meeting, it was agreed that the Chair would prepare a draft text for the fifth meeting in July 2022. During the meeting, the focus was on two main aspects: the Chair's text for a payment system and issues concerning the calculation of a royalty basis as it relates to Mn, specifically on the question of using as a basis a mix of different Mn prices or a Mn ore price. On 13 June 2022, the Chair provided his suggested revisions to the draft regulations (Chair's draft text) to facilitate text-based negotiations. The OEWG held its sixth meeting on 7-8 November 2022. The OEWG on the f held its 7th meeting on 16 and 17 March 2023. The Chair provided a briefing note on 27 February 2023 (ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.1) and a revised text of the same date (ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.2). The outcomes of each of the OEWG meetings were reported to the Council in the statements of the President

				of the Council (see ISBA/26/C13/Add.1; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1 ; Annex I; ISBA/27/C/21 , paras 14-15; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2 , Annex I, C; ISBA/28/C/11 , Annex, I, A).
	(iii) Review a possible operating framework for the review, development and integration of standards and guidelines	Associated organ	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 26th session, the LTC devoted a considerable amount of time to develop phase I standards and guidelines. On 31 January 2022, the Chair of the LTC presented its summary of key issues identified by stakeholders, the Commission's general approach to the review of stakeholder comments, and the phase I draft standard and guidelines (ISBA/27/C/2) On 31 January 2022 the LTC presented the following draft standard and guidelines to the Council: ISBA/27/C/3 to ISBA/27/C/12 Ongoing discussions on the draft regulations by the Council and its working groups, suggestions are made which may result in adding new standards and guidelines and in changing some guidelines into standards and vice versa.
	(iv) Submit revised draft regulations on exploitation for consideration by the Council	Associated organ	Ongoing	During the reporting period, the Council has implemented the roadmaps for 2022 and 2023. This includes the preparation of revised texts by the Facilitators of the working groups based on submissions made during and after the meetings, and on intersessional work.
2.1.2 Monitor and keep under review rules, regulations and procedures to ensure that they are	(i) Review and report on cases of non compliance by contractors	Associated organ	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the second part of the 27th session, the Council was presented with a report of the Secretary-General on the

consistent with the policies, objectives, criteria, principles and provisions set out in the Convention and the 1994 Agreement				implementation of the decision of the Council relating to the report of the Chair of the LTC (ISBA/27/C/27). The Council welcomed the report (ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1.) and commended the hard work and achievements of the LTC during the present session and over the past six years (ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1). • During the July 2023 meeting of the Council, the Secretary-General will present a report on implementation of the decision of the Council on the LTC Chair reports (ISBA/27/C/44). In his report, the Secretary-General covers this matter (see ISBA/28/C/15).
	(ii) Recommend measures to promote the compliance of contractors in future	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(See ISBA/25/C/17 , para.6 ; 1 ISBA/26/C/3 , paras.21 to 23; ISBA/27/C/27, para, 14).
2.1.3 Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved, in particular among the Authority, sponsoring States and flag States	Conduct a study on the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved	Associated organ	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mapping of the mandates of the ISA organs was prepared by the Co-Facilitators of the IWG on Institutional Matters for the second part of the 27th session. • A matrix of rights and obligations of the ISA and the Sponsoring State was prepared by the Secretariat for the IWG on IM for third part of the 27th session (ISBA/27/C/CRP.4).
2.2.1 Keep under review rules, regulations and procedures governing mineral exploitation to ensure that they incorporate good	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 25th session and part I of the 26th session, the Council continued its consideration in an informal setting of the draft exploitation regulations as a matter of a

industry practice and best practices for environmentally responsible management, in order to promote investment on a level playing field, and that the terms used are clear and consistent				<p>priority (ISBA/25/C/17, para.8-9; ISBA/26/C/13, para.15).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These concepts are under discussions in the schedule and in the various provisions where they appear. Discussions are carried out in the informal working groups and in plenary .During the third part of the 27th session, the Council adopted a decision relating to the development of binding environmental threshold values (ISBA/27/C/42). This matter is under review by the LTC. • The Council also adopted a decision relating to the commissioning by the Secretariat of a study on the internationalization of environmental costs of exploitation activities into the production costs of minerals from the Area (ISBA/27/C/43).
2.3.2 Ensure that rules, regulations and procedures governing mineral exploitation reflect the establishment of an adaptive management system	No output against this action	Associated organ	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is in the process of negotiating the draft exploitation regulations as a matter priority in informal setting bracket to delete I cannot (ISBA/25/C/CRP.1). • The Council continued its development of the draft regulations during the resumed 26th session, the 27th session and the 28th session. The question of the adaptive management system falls within the mandate of the informal working group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The outcomes are in the statements of the President of the Council (ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1;

				ISBA/27/C/21; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2; ISBA/28/C/11).
2.5.1 Undertake regular assessments and analyses of trends and developments in deep seabed mining activities	Consider the findings of the assessments and analyses of trends and developments in deep seabed mining activities	Organ responsible	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise performs these functions until the appointment. • During the third part of the 27th session, a draft decision regarding the position of an interim Director General was discussed. • During the first part of the 28th session, the Council adopted a Decision relating to the establishment of the position of an interim director general of the Enterprise (ISBA/28/C/10). • A report on the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission was presented during the 27th session (ISBA/27/C/25). • The operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission is under review during the 28th session.
Strategic direction 3: protect the marine environment				
3.1.1 Develop the regulatory framework for the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area	(iii) Consider an outline inspection mechanism, including for the appointment of inspectors	Organ responsible	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 25th Session, the Council took note of the note prepared by the Secretariat on that matter (ISBA/25/C/5). During part I of the 26th session, the Council discussed a working method to advance the consideration of the draft regulations. The Council established three informal working groups on thematic issues, each to be held by a

				<p>facilitator (ISBA/25/C/17, para.44-49; ISBA/26/C/13, para.22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Informal Working Group of the Council on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement led by the Facilitator Maureen Tamuno (Nigeria) has been discussing the question of an inspection mechanism in the context of the development of the Draft exploitation regulations during the reporting period.
3.1.2 Implement the regulatory framework for the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area	Develop a mechanism and procedure for the independent review of environmental plans and performance assessments under the draft regulations on exploitation	Organ responsible	In progress	<p>At its 25th session, the Council took note of the note prepared by the Secretariat on that particular matter (ISBA/25/C/10). The Council also considered a working paper with the draft exploitation regulations (ISBA/25/C/WP.1). In resuming its consideration of the draft exploitation regulations at part I of the 26th session, the Council also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the comments made by members, observers and stakeholders on the draft regulations, which provides a broad overview of the main issues raised in the written submissions and an overview of general points arising from specific regulatory provisions (ISBA/26/C/2 ; ISBA/26/C/13).</p>
3.1.3 Keep under review the regulatory framework for the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects	Review annual reports submitted by contractors	Organ responsible	Ongoing	<p>At the 27th and 28th sessions, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the</p>

which may arise from activities in the Area				implementation of approved plans of work for exploration (ISBA/27/C/28 and ISBA/28/C/3 ; ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1, para.7 and ISBA/28/C/11, para 5).
3.1.4 Keep under review best environmental practices and monitor developments in best available techniques	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At part I of the 25th Session, the Council took note of a note prepared by the Secretariat on key terms, distinguishing the use of good industry practice and best practices under the draft exploitation regulations (ISBA/25/C/11). The Council agreed that regarding the definitions, use and relationship of key terms, such as “good industry practice”, “best environmental practice” and “best available techniques”, it was necessary for the regulations to reflect their evolutionary character (ISBA/25/C/17, para.20). During part II of the 25th session, the Council considered a working paper with the text of the draft regulations (ISBA/25/C/WP.1) These concepts are discussed in the IWGs of the Council. The IWG ENV has established an intersessional group to work on test mining. The outcome will be reported to the IWG ENV in July 2023. The Council is also informed of the BEP and BTA through the review by the LTC of Contractors’ activities. The Council has requested review of the LTC recommendations on EIS.
3.2.1 Develop regional environmental assessments and	(i) Implementation of the Authority’s strategy for the	Organ responsible	In progress	During the 27 th Session, the Council considered the draft regional environmental management

management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking place	development of regional environmental management plans			plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. After consideration, the Council requests the Commission to review the draft after the standardized procedure for the development, review and approval of regional environmental management plans and the template have been adopted by the Council, in the light of the Council's comments (ISBA/27/C/44).
	(ii) Develop and implement a standardized approach for the design and development of regional environmental management plans	Associated organ	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In ISBA/26/C/10, the Council requested the LTC, in consultation with the FC if necessary, to further develop the guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans, in accordance with UNCLOS, the 1994 Agreement and the rules, regulations and procedures of ISA, and taking into account, as appropriate, the two proposals (ISBA/26/C/6 and ISBA/26/C/7), with a view to recommending to the Council a standardized approach, including a template with indicative elements. • During the 27th Session, the Council considered recommendations on a standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans in the Area, including a template with indicative elements (ISBA/27/C/37). The Council requested the LTC to revise the draft standardized procedure, taking into account the Council's comments as summarized by the President of the Council, the

				submissions in 2019 by Germany and the Netherlands, co-sponsored by Costa Rica, and written comments to be submitted by delegations by 15 January 2023, and provide the rationale for its decisions (ISBA/27/C/44).
	(iii) Report on progress with the implementation of the Authority's programme for regional environmental management plans	Associated organ	In progress	Progress are reflected in the report of the Chair of the LTC on the work of the LTC for the 27 th session (ISBA/27C/16 ,Add 1 and Add.2) .
	(iv) Prepare regional environmental assessments compiling relevant scientific information in support of the development of regional environmental management plans	Associated organ	In progress	The LTC and Secretariat are working on the regional environmental assessment for the Indian Ocean and will report progress to the Council in subsequent LTC Chair's reports.
3.2.2 Facilitate the implementation, in cooperation with contractors, sponsoring States and other relevant stakeholders, of regional environmental management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking or will take place	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 26th Session, the Council welcomed the recommendations of the LTC on the review of the environmental management plan (ISBA/26/C/43), noted the progress in the implementation of the plan and made decisions regarding further implementation of the plan (ISBA/26/C/58). In collaboration with the Secretariat, a series of taxonomic standardization workshops were convened in 2020, 2021 and 2022 to facilitate the exchange and compilation of biological data and information at the regional scale. Further collaboration activities are being

				implemented under the framework of Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI) for the development of taxonomic tools to enhance taxonomic identification and description for biodiversity assessment in all mineral provinces where exploration is taking place.
taxon3.2.3 Keep under review the implementation of the regional environmental management plans, including with regard to the challenges and constraints identified therein, for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking or will take place	(i) Review the implementation of the environmental management plans for the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	Organ responsible	Ongoing	In its decision ISBA/26/C/58 , based on the recommendations of the LTC, the Council encouraged further dialogue with stakeholders, marine scientific research and related capacity building in the implementation and review of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.
	(ii) Recommend specific measures to address issues identified in the review of regional environmental management plans	Associated organ	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 26th Session, the Council welcomed the recommendations of the LTC on the review of the environmental management plan (ISBA/26/C/43), noted the progress in the implementation of the plan and made decisions regarding further implementation of the plan (ISBA/26/C/58) Collaboration activities are being implemented under the framework of Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI) for improving data quality and sharing and developing taxonomic tools to enhance taxonomic identification and description for regional-scale biodiversity assessment.

	(iii) Review the effectiveness of existing areas of particular environmental interest and consider the designation of additional areas	Associated organ	Achieved s	In its decision ISBA/26/C/58 , based on the recommendations of the LTC, the Council approved the designation of four additional areas of particular environmental interest to enhance the effectiveness of the network of areas of particular environmental interest,
3.2.4 Encourage and facilitate strategic partnerships to support the work of the Authority in developing, implementing and keeping under review regional environmental assessment and management plans	No output against this action	Associated organ	In progress	In its decision ISBA/24/C/8, the Council supported the efforts by the Secretariat to expand strategic partnerships with relevant researchers and organizations. The Secretariat and LTC have been collaborating with the DeepCCZ project and the EU Atlantic REMP project in the review of the CCZ EMP (ISBA/26/C/43 and ISBA/C/C/37) development of the draft REMP for the Mid Atlantic Ridge. The Council has been briefed about such collaboration in the LTC chair's reports.
3.3.2 Encourage participation by stakeholders in the development and review of the regulatory framework adopted for the protection of the marine environment	(i) Develop procedures and mechanisms to facilitate the consultation of stakeholders	Associated organ (in partnership with LTC)	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council regularly invited stakeholders to provide comments on the draft exploitation regulations which were taken into consideration at the 25th session and during part I of the 26th session (ISBA/25/C/17, para.8 ; ISBA/26/C/13, para.15). Stakeholders are invited to submit proposals during the meetings, by the deadlines set by the Facilitator of the IWG on the protection and preservation of the marine environment and intersessionally. These proposals are reviewed by the Facilitator to prepare its revisions of texts for

				<p>consideration. This process has taken place throughout the reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision of the Council on environmental threshold values (see above) also involves stakeholder consultations. The requested review of the LTC recommendations on environmental matters also aims at improving processes with stakeholder consultations.
3.4.3 Encourage and facilitate strategic partnerships to support the work of the Authority in developing robust monitoring programmes and methodologies	No output against this action	Associated organ	In progress	Under the current strategic partnership with Argentina as Champion of the Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research several collaborations are established to advance robust monitoring methodologies including on topics such as ocean observations and best practices of management practices.
3.5.2 Keep under review regulations, procedures, monitoring programmes and methodologies to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, as well as interference with the ecological balance of that environment; to prevent damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment	No output against this action	Associated organ	Ongoing	<p>During the 27th session, the LTC considered and reviewed the guidance for contractors on the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration activities (ISBA/27/C/44, para. 15).</p> <p>During the 27th session, the also Council adopted a decision relating to the development of binding environmental threshold values (ISBA/27/C/42). The LTC is now working on this matter and will report in due course.</p>
3.5.4 Encourage and facilitate strategic partnerships to support the work of the Authority in	No output against this action	Associated organ	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2022 the Secretariat engaged in an informal partnership with the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United

developing regulations, procedures, monitoring programmes and methodologies				<p>Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The two co-hosted the <i>Expert Group Meeting on Enforcement Related Issues in Deep Sea Mining</i>, in Bali, Indonesia (29,30 August 2022).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As requested by the Council, dialogue has been established at secretariat levels to formalize cooperation between the International Labour Organization and the International Seabed Authority in light of complementary competencies under article 146 of UNCLOS. During the July's meeting, the Council is invited to consider with a view to approving the agreement of cooperation between the two organizations.
Strategic direction 4: promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area				
4.1.1 Actively promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area	Build collaborative initiatives to strengthen marine scientific research infrastructure in the Area	Associated organ (in partnership with the Secretariat)	In progress	<p>The Secretariat launched in June 2022 the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative together with several partners, including the European Union, Republic of Korea, Ifremer, the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) of IOC-UNESCO. SSKI is one of ISA's flagship initiatives under the Marine Scientific Research Action Plan in support of implementation of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2020. SSKI will foster and coordinate a collaborative platform to enhance deep-sea biodiversity research and capacity. Other initiatives have been initiated to support</p>

				collaborative actions towards increasing seafloor mapping (AREA2030), understanding the status of ocean health and monitoring pollution (microplastics) as part of the implementation of six strategic research priorities identified in the ISA MSR Action Plan.
4.3.1 Establish and enhance partnerships for improved sharing of data and information	Integrate non-confidential environmental information with the Ocean Biogeographic Information System of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Organ responsible	In progress	In June 2021, the ISA joined the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) network of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO as an Associate Data Unit enabling the ISA Secretariat to serve as a node for IODE's Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS). This collaboration further enhances global access to the biodiversity data contained in the ISA DeepData database including taxonomic information, species abundance and distribution.
Strategic direction 5: build capacity for developing State				
5.4.2 Facilitate the adjustment of contractor training programmes to meet the needs of developing States	(ii) Develop cost-effective measures to improve the delivery of the contractors' training programmes	Associated organ	In progress	The secretariat has initiated conversations with the training sub-group of the LTC on this matter. Any developments will be brought to the attention of the Council in due course.
Strategic direction 6: ensure fully integrated participation by developing States				

6.3.2 Actively promote partnerships with Governments, contractors and international organizations to maintain and develop training opportunities for personnel from developing States	(i) Facilitate the selection of qualified candidates for training programmes under plans of work	Coordinating organ	Ongoing	The Council welcomed the training programmes and opportunities offered by contractors, pursuant to their contracts for exploration with ISA (ISBA/26/C/57; ISBA/27/C/44).
6.5.1 Identify possible approaches to the independent operation of the Enterprise, including procedures and criteria for joint venture operations	(ii) Commission a report from the designated Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise on the proposal by the Government of Poland for a joint venture with the Enterprise	Associated organ	In progress	The Council noted that the LTC has conducted a preliminary discussion of the study on issues related to the operationalization of the Enterprise (ISBA/25/LTC/37).
	(iii) Facilitate the development of a business proposal to facilitate the operation of a joint venture	Organ responsible	In progress	<p>The Council expressed its appreciation for the report presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise (ISBA/25/C/26) and took note of it (ISBA/25/C/17/Add.1).</p> <p>The SRRSGE reported on the consultations with the Government of Poland who had expressed an interest in entering negotiations to form a joint venture with the Enterprise (ISBA/26/C/46).</p>
Strategic direction 7: ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits				
Strategic direction 8: improve the organizational performance of the Authority				
8.1.1 Identify opportunities to strengthen management culture, reduce risk and introduce best practices through the planning,	(vii) Report the exact cost for supervising and administering the contracts for exploration	Associated organ	Ongoing	A revised methodology for annual overhead charges has been developed by the Secretariat and will be submitted to the FC for consideration at the 26 th session (ISBA/26/FC/3). The FC noted that the revised methodology provided a sound basis

development and implementation of organizational reforms				for moving forward. (ISBA/26/C/21-ISBA/26/A/10)
8.2.2 Implement and keep under review working methods and processes of the organs of the Authority	(iv) Review the financial rules and regulations, as needed	Organ responsible (in partnership with the Assembly)	Ongoing	No amendment has been identified as necessary for the reporting period.
8.3.1 Adopt, implement and keep under review measures for the effective, efficient and transparent utilization and management of the Authority's resources	(ii) Ensure the timely submission of financial reports	Coordinating Organ (in partnership with the Assembly)	Ongoing	An enterprise resource management system has been implemented within the secretariat in January 2020. As a result, financial reports have been submitted in a timely manner. Audited financial statements are made available at the website of the Authority.
	(iii) Report on the status of the various voluntary trust funds	Coordinating Organ (in partnership with the Assembly)	Ongoing	(See ISBA/25/FC/6; ISBA/26/FC/2 and ISBA/27/FC/6.
	(v) Issue a report, with recommendations, of the Finance Committee	Associated organ	Ongoing	(See ISBA/25/C/31-ISBA/25/A/10, ISBA/26/C/21-ISBA/26/A/10, ISBA/26/C/21/Add.1-ISBA/26/A/10/Add.1, and ISBA/27/C/36-ISBA/27/A/8)
8.4.2 Undertake regular assessment of long-term options for financing the Authority's operations	Report on potential long-term options for financing the Authority's operations	Associated organ	In progress	Two reports on future financing of the Authority were issued. (See ISBA/26/FC/7 and ISBA/27/FC/2)
Strategic direction 9: Commit to transparency				
9.2.1 Promote and enhance the availability of, and access to, non-confidential information and, in particular, consider a wider	(i) Explore with contractors the possibility for making contracts for exploration and associated	Organ responsible	On going	Standardized templates providing public information on the plans of work for exploration of contractors have been published

dissemination of information, analyses and decisions relating to the work of the Authority, especially through the Authority's database	programmes of activities publicly available			on ISA's website. In March 2023, contractors were requested to review their existing templates to update them in line with the most recent five-year programmes of activities and extension agreements.
9.3.2 Develop clear, open and cost-effective working practices and procedures to ensure that the chain of responsibility and accountability is properly managed in the development, implementation and enforcement of technical, environmental, operational, scientific and safety regulations and standards for activities in the Area	(ii) Report on the status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(See ISBA/27/C/28 and ISBA/28/C/3)
	(iii) Encourage contractors to provide detailed programmes of activities for five-year periods that include clear objectives	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The Council took note of the report of the Chair of the LTC on the work of the Commission (See ISBA/27/C/16, Add.1, Add.2 and ISBA/28/C/5).
	(vi) Report on the outcomes of the contractors' meetings.	Associated organ	On going	A summary will be provided in the next report of the status of contracts for exploration.
9.3.3 Keep under review the effectiveness of working practices and procedures	No output against this action	Associated organ	Ongoing	Since 2017, emphasis has been placed on improving the delivery of programmes by ISA through optimization of performance at all levels (ISBA/ST/AI/2017/3 ; ISBA/ST/AI/2018/1).
9.4.2 Actively engage relevant stakeholders in the work of the Authority, as appropriate	(ii) Facilitate the consultation of relevant stakeholders in the development of the draft regulations on exploitation	Organ responsible	On going	The Council called for textual proposals under different informal working groups.