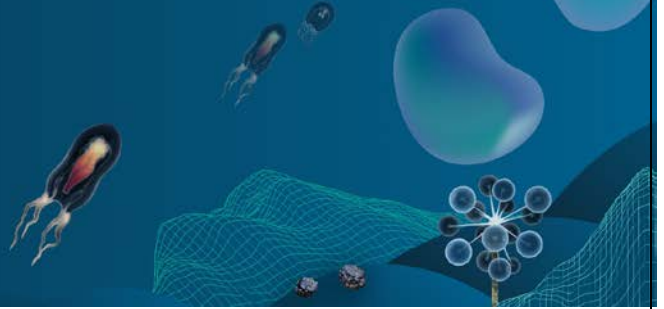




INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY 29TH SESSION 2024



Information Note on matters for consideration by the Council of the International Seabed Authority during the second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Authority (15-26 July 2024)

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of this note is to inform members and observers of the International Seabed Authority (the “Authority”) on matters for consideration by the Council at the second part of the twenty-ninth session. The note provides an overview of the items on the revised agenda of the Council ([ISBA/29/C/1/Rev.1](#)).
2. The [revised agenda](#) (as adopted during the first part of the twenty-ninth session), the [indicative programme of work](#) and the [President’s Briefing note for the second part of the twenty-ninth session](#) have been placed on the Authority’s [website](#). The documents can be accessed via the section named “Council”, and on the right-side menu under “[Part II \(15-26 July 2024\)](#)”. All official documents prepared for the upcoming meetings are continuously placed on the website as they become available, it is therefore recommended to follow the regular updates.
3. This note is to be read in conjunction with the note on [logistical and procedural aspects](#).

II. Resumption of the session (item 1 of the revised agenda, Monday 15 July 2024)

4. At the first part of the twenty-ninth session, in March 2024, the Council adopted its revised agenda ([ISBA/29/C/1/Rev.1](#)) and elected H.E. Amb. Olav Myklebust (Norway) as President of the Council. Uganda (African States Group), India (Asia Pacific States Group) and Brazil (Latin American and Caribbean States Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.
5. The Council will resume its session on Monday 15 July 2024. For this second part of the twenty-ninth session, a total of 16 items out of 22 currently listed on the revised agenda of the Council will be considered by the Council as stipulated in the [indicative programme of work](#).

III. Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission in accordance with article 163, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, if any (item 6 of the revised agenda, Monday 15 July 2024)

6. In case of a vacancy, the President will invite the Council to elect a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission. The note will be published on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#), as it becomes available.

IV. Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (item 10 of the revised agenda, 15 to 24 July and 26 July 2024)

7. As a matter of continued priority, the Council will resume its consideration of the Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (the "draft Exploitation Regulations"). According to the decision of the Council of 21 July 2023 ([ISBA/28/C/24](#)), the Council recognized that agreeing on a timeline and modalities for the work of the Council until July 2024 would provide predictability to all members of the Authority as well as other stakeholders. In the Annex to that decision, the working modalities were also set out, including the development of the consolidated text. The objective of preparing the consolidated text has been to compile various parts of the texts of the informal working groups into a single consolidated text of the draft Exploitation Regulations. This consolidation enabled the Council to identify and remedy areas of overlap, duplication, and omission. Additionally, it improved the harmonization between the various provisions and related annexes, ensuring consistency with the language of the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.

8. The consolidated text of the Exploitation Regulations was released on the Authority's website on 16 February 2024 ([ISBA/29/C/CRP.1](#)). During the first part of the twenty-ninth session, the Council, working in informal session with the participation of all members of the Authority and observers, conducted a reading of the preamble and Regulations 1 to 34. Also, the Council conducted a reading of regulations related to certain thematic clusters, including the regulations concerning the financial terms of a contract.

9. The President has prepared for this part of the session a [briefing note](#) that addresses the current status of the work on the consolidated text, and proposals for the continued work. Delegations and observers are invited to familiarize themselves with the briefing note.

10. The Council will be invited to continue the negotiations of the President's consolidated text during the second part of the twenty-ninth session from Regulation 35, under the leadership of the President, with the aim of finalizing the first reading of the consolidated text during this second part. The negotiations will continue in the manner followed during the first part of the twenty-ninth session; a regulation-by-regulation reading from Monday 15 to Tuesday 23 July 2024.

11. There are a number of topics suitable for separate discussions. On this basis, the President has proposed the following schedule of work for the second part of the twenty-ninth session in a plenary in an informal setting that it is reflected in the [Indicative Programme of Work](#).

12. A thematic discussion will be held on Monday 15 July 2024, on Equalization measures, with Australia as rapporteur.

13. The eighth meeting of the Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters will be held on Monday 22 July 2024. The Co-Facilitators Gina Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica) and Salvador Vega (Chile) will discuss the topic Effective Control. The Representation of Nauru submitted a document titled "[Non-Paper by Nauru on State Sponsorship of Activities in the Area and the Interpretation of the 'Effective Control' Requirements](#)", which is available on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#).

14. The eighth meeting of the Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment will convene on Wednesday 24 July 2024. The topics for discussion will be the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP), led by the Facilitator, Dr. Raijeli Taga (Fiji). The correspondent documents will be published on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#), as they become available.

15. The coastal States obligations and interests will be discussed as a cross-cutting issue. It will be taken up when the Council reaches the reading of Regulation 93 ter. In this respect the intersessional working group on coastal States will have the opportunity to report on the status of its intersessional work and potential outcomes. The document will be published on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#), as it becomes available.

16. The facilitators and the rapporteurs should report back to the President on Friday 26 July 2024. At that point, the Council will review the progress of the regulations, to evaluate the status of the work on the respective topics, whether more work is needed, and whether other topics need to be discussed. Thereafter, the plan for intersessional work should also be assessed and updated at that point in time.

17. The Council is reminded that according to the decision of the Council of 21 July 2023 ([ISBA/28/C/24](#)), paragraph 3, the Council is required to assess "at the end of its July 2024 meeting, in the event that rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation are not completed, the remaining work that would be needed prior to their adoption and to consider another road map to that end". Consequently, in accordance with the Councils' previous decision, the Council will be invited to consider a new road map, reflecting on the remaining work on the draft Exploitation Regulations. It is here to recall that certain delegations have raised the desirability of a third meeting of the Council in November 2024, mirroring the approach during the twenty-eight session, in order to facilitate progress on the work on the draft Exploitation Regulations. Additionally, as part of this new blueprint, delegations will be invited to consider the continued work on the Standards and Guidelines, as addressed in the [President's briefing note](#).

V. Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at the second part of its twenty-ninth session (item 14 of the revised agenda, Thursday 18 and Thursday 25 July 2024)

18. The Legal and Technical Commission will hold the second part of its meeting from 1 to 12 July 2024. The Chair of the Commission will be invited to present his oral report on the work of the Commission to the Council on Thursday 18 July 2024.

19. On Thursday 25 July 2024, the Council will receive an addendum to the Chair's report on the work of the Legal and Technical Commission during the first part of its session. In accordance with the practice that has developed, the Council may wish to adopt a decision relating to the reports of the Chair of the Commission and may wish to consider and take action on any specific recommendations made by the Commission.

VI. Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council (item 5 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

20. The Secretary-General will provide an oral report on the credentials of members of the Council. The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

VII. Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters (item 8 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

21. The Secretary-General will provide a report on the laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the Authority with respect to the activities in the Area, and related matters. The document is contained in [ISBA/29/C/13](#). The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

VIII. Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2023 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (item 11 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

22. The Secretary-General will provide a report on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2023 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission, in accordance to the Council decision adopted on 8 November 2023 ([ISBA/28/C/27](#)), paragraph 19. The document will be published on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#), as it becomes available. The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

IX. Report of the interim Director General of the Enterprise (item 12 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

23. The interim Director-General will deliver its report on activities related to the Enterprise contained in document [ISBA/29/C/12](#). The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

X. Report of the Finance Committee (item 15 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

24. The Council will be invited to consider the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee (which meets from 10 to 12 July 2024) and make its recommendations to the

Assembly. Among the matters for consideration by the Finance Committee are the development of rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area pursuant to section 9, paragraph 7 (f), of the annex to the 1994 Agreement, the Budgetary implications of a second periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention and the status of the Working Capital Fund.

XI. Budget of the International Seabed Authority (item 16 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

25. The Council will be invited to consider the proposed budget of the Authority for the financial period 2025–2026 and provide its recommendation to the Assembly, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

XII. Adoption of the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2025–2026 (item 17 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

26. The Council will be invited to consider the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2025–2026, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

XIII. Report of the relinquishment of areas under contract for exploration (item 7 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

27. The Council will be invited to take note on the following reports of the relinquishment of areas under contract for exploration. The reports will be published on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#), as they become available.

28. Report on the relinquishment of 50 per cent of the area allocated to the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) under the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides between the BGR and the International Seabed Authority.

29. Report on the Relinquishment of two thirds of the area allocated to the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) under the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts between COMRA and the International Seabed Authority.

30. Report on the relinquishment of two thirds of the area allocated to the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) under the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts between JOGMEC and the International Seabed Authority.

XIV. Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for a plan of work for exploration, if any (item 9 of the revised agenda, Thursday 25 July 2024)

31. In case of a recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission, the Council will be invited to consider an application for a plan of work for exploration. The document will be published on the Authority's website for the [second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Council](#), as it becomes available.

XV. Dates of the next session (item 22 of the revised agenda, Friday 26 July 2024)

32. The Council will be invited to take note of the dates established for the thirtieth session. As indicated under heading IV above, the Council may also consider scheduling a third part of the twenty-ninth session.

XVI. Proposal to the Assembly of a list of candidates for the election of the Secretary-General (item 21 of the revised agenda, Friday 26 July 2024)

33. The Council will be invited to establish and propose to the Assembly a list of candidates for election of the Secretary-General

XVII. Other matters (item 23 of the revised agenda, Friday 26 July 2024)

34. Members of the Council will be invited to address any other matter for its consideration.

Kingston, Jamaica, 19 June 2024.