



# INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION 2024



## INFORMATION NOTE ON MATTERS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY

### OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY AT THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

29 July-2 August 2024, Kingston

#### Introduction

1. The meeting of the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority will be held from 29 July to 2 August 2024, in Kingston, Jamaica, at the Jamaica Conference Centre. As notified on 28 May 2024 by letter from the President of the Assembly, the schedule of meetings has been adjusted to take into account Emancipation Day, an important public holiday in Jamaica. There will be no meeting on Thursday 1 August. Instead, the Assembly will meet, with interpretation, on 29, 30, 31 July and 2 August 2024, between the hours of 9 am until 1 pm and from 3 to 6 pm, starting one hour earlier than usual on each day.

2. The purpose of this note is to briefly describe the items contained in the provisional agenda of the Assembly ([ISBA/29/A/L.1](#)).

3. The provisional agenda as well as other official documents prepared for the upcoming session together with the indicative programme of work have been placed on the Authority's website. As more documents become available, they will be uploaded to the website and delegations are kindly invited to monitor the website regularly.

#### Opening of the session (item 1 of the provisional agenda)

4. The twenty-ninth session of the Assembly will be declared open on Monday 29 July 2024 by the President of the twenty-eighth session and is scheduled to close on Friday 2 August 2024.

#### Adoption of the agenda (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

5. The Assembly will commence its business with the adoption of its agenda for the session. The provisional agenda ([ISBA/29/A/L.1](#)) includes 22 items.

#### Election of the President and Vice-Presidents (items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda)

6. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Assembly will elect a President and Vice-Presidents. It is the turn of the Eastern European Group to nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Assembly for the twenty-ninth session.

7. Each of the other regional groups will be entitled to nominate a Vice-President of the Assembly. On 20 February 2024, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, in its capacity as the Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Group informed the Secretariat that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Nauru for the Vice-Presidency of the Assembly for the twenty-ninth session.

8. To facilitate the smooth running of the session, the secretariat would be grateful if other regional groups could coordinate on the issue of candidatures for the positions of President and Vice-Presidents in advance of the session in Kingston and communicate any nominations to the secretariat ([secretary-general@isa.org.jm](mailto:secretary-general@isa.org.jm)). The President and Vice-President shall constitute the Bureau which could meet periodically throughout the session to review the progress of work of the Assembly.

#### **Appointment of the Credentials Committee (item 5 of the provisional agenda)**

9. Pursuant to rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly will need to appoint a credentials committee at the beginning of the session. The Committee shall consist of nine members of the Assembly, who shall be appointed by the Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers and examine the credentials of representatives of members and report to the Assembly without delay. A meeting of the Credentials Committee is scheduled on Wednesday 31 July, from 2 to 2:45 pm and the presentation of the report by the Chair of the Credentials Committee is scheduled on Friday 2 August. To facilitate the appointment, delegations are invited to coordinate on this matter in advance of the opening of the session in Kingston and to communicate any nominations for appointment of members of the Credentials Committee to the secretariat ([secretary-general@isa.org.jm](mailto:secretary-general@isa.org.jm)).

#### **Consideration of requests for observer status (item 6 of the provisional agenda)**

10. The Assembly will continue its business with the consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and the Guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority ([ISBA/25/A/16](#), Annex).

11. For this session, a total of sixteen requests for observer status were received by the Secretary-General from the following entities:

- Tetiaroa Society ([ISBA/29/A/INF/1](#));
- Gujarat National Law University ([ISBA/29/A/INF/2](#));
- CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. ([ISBA/29/A/INF/3](#));
- Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations/Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales ([ISBA/29/A/INF/4](#));
- Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 ([ISBA/29/A/INF/5](#));
- American Samoa Economic Development Council ([ISBA/29/A/INF/6](#));
- New World Hope Organization ([ISBA/29/A/INF/7](#));
- Centre for Community and Oceanic Law ([ISBA/29/A/INF/8](#));
- Opes Oceani Foundation, Inc. ([ISBA/29/A/INF/9](#));
- British Institute for International and Comparative Law ([ISBA/29/A/INF/10](#));
- National Oceanography Centre ([ISBA/29/A/INF/11](#));
- Maui Nui Makai Network ([ISBA/29/A/INF/12](#));
- Centre for Biological Diversity ([ISBA/29/A/INF/13](#));
- Impossible Metals Inc. ([ISBA/29/A/INF/14](#));
- Seafloor Mineral Developers Association ([ISBA/29/A/INF/15](#)); and
- Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental A.C. ([ISBA/29/A/INF/16](#)).

#### **Election to fill any vacancy on the Finance Committee (item 7 of the provisional agenda)**

12. In the event there is a vacancy to fill on the Finance Committee, the Assembly will hold an election in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, 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.

### **Annual report of the Secretary-General (item 8 of the provisional agenda)**

13. The Secretary-General will present his annual report submitted pursuant to article 166, paragraph 4, of the Convention ([ISBA/29/A/2](#) and [ISBA/29/A/7](#)). Please note that these need to be read in conjunction with a separate illustrated report of the Secretary-General entitled “Leading precautionary and responsible governance of the ocean global commons based on science, solidarity and transparency” (available at: <https://www.isa.org.jm/secretary-general-annual-report-2024/>). The Assembly will be invited to take note of the information provided in the reports.

14. In line with the usual practice of the meetings of the Assembly, a preliminary list of speakers will be established for this item. Delegations are invited to submit their statements in PDF format to the secretariat ([assembly@isa.org.jm](mailto:assembly@isa.org.jm)) with reference to the item agenda, the date of delivery and the number of the meeting. The statement should be submitted well in advance of the meeting, but no later than two hours before delivery, in order to ensure the quality of the interpretation. Delegations should indicate in the subject line and in the body of the email whether the statement is for the use of interpreters only or should also be posted online. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery. Speakers are invited to deliver the statement at a speed that facilitate simultaneous interpretation (100 to 120 words per minute).

15. The Secretary-General will also present a progress report on the implementation of the action plan of the International Seabed Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ([ISBA/29/A/5](#)). The Assembly will be invited to take note of the report, request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation and upscaling of the strategic research priorities under the action plan for marine scientific research and encourage all members of the Authority, other States, relevant international organizations, academic, scientific and technical institutions, philanthropic organizations, corporations and private persons to contribute to the implementation of the action plan for marine scientific research.

### **Report on the review of the high-level action plan for the extended period 2019–2025 for alignment with the extension of the strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2025 (item 9 of the provisional agenda)**

16. During the previous session, the Assembly decided that the 2019-2023 strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority be extended by two years and consequently requested that the Secretary-General review the high-level action plan for the extended period 2019–2025 for alignment with the extension of the strategic plan for the same extended period. An extended high-level action plan for the period 2019-2025 is proposed for consideration and adoption by the Assembly (see [ISBA/29/A/8](#)). This extension has no bearing on the substance of the high-level action as only initially specific agreed timeframes have been adjusted in light of progress in the implementation of relevant action items.

### **Fifth edition of the Secretary-General’s Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research (item 10 of the provisional agenda)**

17. The Secretary-General will present the fifth edition of his Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research on Monday 29 July 2024.

### **Periodic review of the international regime of the Area (item 11 of the provisional agenda)**

18. During the previous session, the Assembly decided to include the periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention as an agenda item for the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly in 2024, with a view to adopting a decision thereon ([ISBA/28/A/16](#)). The Assembly also requested the Finance Committee to consider and provide recommendations to the Assembly on the budgetary implications pertaining to the undertaking of a

second periodic review. It is anticipated that any recommendations of the Finance Committee on this matter will be reported under item 13.

**Report of the interim Director-General of the Enterprise (item 12 of the provisional agenda)**

19. The interim Director-General of the Enterprise will present a report on activities undertaken since assuming office in performing the functions of the Enterprise as specified in Section 2 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 “1994 Agreement”). The Assembly is invited to take note of the report which is contained in the document [ISBA/29/A/6-ISBA/29/C/12](#).

**Report and recommendations of the Finance Committee (item 13 of the provisional agenda)**

20. The Assembly will consider the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee which will be presented by the Chair of the Finance Committee.

**Adoption of the budget of the Authority and adoption of the scale of assessment for the contributions to the budget of the Authority (items 14 and 15 of the provisional agenda)**

21. The Assembly is required to approve the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2025–2026 and the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget, taking into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee and the Council.

**Proposal for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment (item 16 of the provisional agenda)**

22. As requested by note verbale dated 19 April 2024 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chile to the International Seabed Authority, the item “Proposal for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment” has been included on the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly ([ISBA/29/A/4](#)).

**Statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the twenty-ninth session (item 17 of the provisional agenda)**

23. The President of the Council for the twenty-ninth session, Olav Myklebust (Norway), will deliver his statement on the work of the Council during the first and second part of the twenty-ninth session ([ISBA/29/C/9](#) and [ISBA/29/C/9/Add.1](#)). The Assembly will be invited to take note of the report.

**Report of the Credentials Committee (item 18 of the provisional agenda)**

24. The Chair of the Credentials Committee will present the report on credentials, including a draft decision relating to credentials of representatives at the twenty-ninth session which the Assembly will be invited to adopt.

**Election of the Secretary-General (item 19 of the provisional agenda)**

25. In accordance with article 166, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Assembly will elect the Secretary-General for a four-year term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 from among the list of candidates proposed by the Council.

**Election to fill the vacancies on the Council (item 20 of the provisional agenda)**

26. Elections to fill vacancies on the Council for a four-year term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 will take place in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention. In 2022, the Assembly elected 18 members of the Council in each of the five interest groups referred to in paragraph 15 of Section 3 of the Annex to the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention (see [ISBA/27/A/14](#)). The terms of office of the remaining 18 members of the

Council who were elected in 2020 (see [ISBA/26/A/20](#)) will expire on 31 December 2024. It is therefore necessary for the Assembly to elect 18 new members of the Council for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028. Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A, one vacancy in Group B, two vacancies in Group C, three vacancies in Group D and eleven vacancies in Group E.

27. It should be noted that the 1994 Agreement, Annex, Section 3, paragraph 9, requires the Assembly, before electing the members of the Council, to establish lists of countries fulfilling the criteria for membership in each of the interest groups. In order to facilitate the work of the Assembly in this regard, the Secretariat has prepared two information papers to assist member States in determining the States eligible for election in each group of the Council (see [ISBA/29/A/CRP.1](#) and [ISBA/29/A/CRP.2](#)).

**Dates of the next session (item 21 of the provisional agenda)**

28. At the end of the session, the President of the Assembly will announce the dates for the thirtieth session of the Assembly.

**Other matters (item 22 of the provisional agenda)**

29. The Assembly may also be required to consider any other items that may be brought to its attention by members of the Authority.

25 June 2024