

**Council**

Advance Unedited Version

17 July 2024

English only**Twenty-ninth session**

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Agenda item 16

Budget of the International Seabed Authority

This is an informal advance unedited version of the Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2025-2026, which is undergoing formal editing and translation into all official languages. The secretariat shall not be held responsible for any errors or omissions in the informal unedited text. The Draft decision should be read together with the Report of the Finance Committee (ISBA/29/A/9-ISBA/29/C/20) and revised budget proposal (ISBA/29/A/3/Add.1-ISBA/29/C/11/Add.1), which shall be made available, together with the official version of the Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2025-2026, on 22 July 2024.

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2025-2026

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee of the International Seabed Authority,¹

1. *Recommends* that the Assembly of the Authority approve the budget for the financial period 2025–2026 in the amount of \$26,427,000, as proposed by the Secretary-General in document ISBA/29/A/3/Add.1-ISBA/29/C/11/Add.1, following review by the Committee.

2. *Recommends* that the Assembly adopt the following draft decision:

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

1. *Approves* the budget for the financial period 2025–2026 in the amount of \$26,427,000, as proposed by the Secretary-General;²

¹ See ISBA/29/A/9-ISBA/29/C/20.

² See ISBA/29/A/3/Add.1-ISBA/29/C/11/Add.1.

2. *Decides* to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund by \$75,000 to \$825,000 to be collected over the financial periods 2025-2026 and 2027-2028;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2025 and 2026 on the basis of the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for the period 2022 to 2024, adjusted for differences in membership between the Authority and the United Nations, taking into account that the maximum assessment rate will be 22 per cent and the minimum rate 0.01 per cent;

4. Also *authorizes* the Secretary-General, for 2025 and 2026, to transfer between sections, subsections, and programmes up to 15 per cent of the amount of each section, subsection, or programme;

5. *Notes* that the agreed contribution by the European Union to the administrative budget of the Authority shall be \$150,000 per year, effective 1 January 2026;

6. *Urges* the members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget as soon as possible, and in full;

7. *Notes* with concern the amounts of outstanding contributions, *appeal* once more to the members of the Authority to pay outstanding contributions to the budget of the Authority from previous years as soon as possible and *request* the Secretary-General, at his discretion, to continue his efforts to recover those amounts;

8. *Urges* member States that are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Authority for two full years, and thus falling under Article 184 of the Convention, wishing to exercise their voting rights should indicate their intention to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Urges* member States and other possible donors such as other States, contractors, relevant international organizations, academia, scientific and technical institutions, philanthropic organizations, corporations, and private persons to make voluntary contributions to the voluntary trust funds of the Authority and *encourage* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts in raising awareness among stakeholders regarding this issue;

10. *Requests* the Secretary General to implement the recommendations in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report of the Finance Committee³ without delay;

11. *Reminds* all organs of the Authority that, according to Regulation 13 of the Financial Regulations, decisions by the Assembly having financial or budgetary implications shall be based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee; and

12. *Recommends* that the Council and the Assembly consider the issue of the payment of financial contributions by the observers.

³ ISBA/29/A/9-ISBA/29/C/20.