

**Letter dated 2 August 2024 to the President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority  
from the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority**

1. At present, 32 member States are in arrears under the terms of article 184 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states: *“A State Party which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Authority shall have no vote if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.”*<sup>1</sup>
2. In its decision relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2025-2026 the Assembly urged member States that are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Authority for two full years, thus falling under article 184 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that wish to exercise their voting rights to indicate their intention to do so as soon as possible.<sup>2</sup>
3. On 30 July 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations informing that the Government of Liberia requests exemption from suspension of voting rights pursuant to article 184 of the Convention in light of the exceptional circumstances that have significantly impacted its ability to meet its financial contributions.
4. On 30 July 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations informing that the Government of Senegal intends to exercise its voting rights pursuant to article 184 of the Convention and that its delay in the payment of contributions is due to technical issues and that such payment will be received as soon as possible.
5. On 31 July 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations informing that the Government of Honduras intends to exercise its voting rights pursuant to article 184 of the Convention and that it is in the process of paying the outstanding contributions by August 2024.
6. On 1 August 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations informing that the Government of Equatorial Guinea wishes to exercise its right to vote pursuant to article 184 of the Convention and that it intends to honour its financial obligations once domestic budgetary constraints are overcome.
7. On 1 August 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Guinea Bissau to the United Nations informing that the Government of Guinea Bissau wishes to exercise its right to vote pursuant to article 184 of the Convention and that it intends to honour its financial obligations once domestic budgetary constraints are overcome.

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/29/A/7/Rev.1

<sup>2</sup> ISBA/29/A/11

8. On 1 August 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations informing that the Government of Haiti wishes to exercise its right to vote pursuant to article 184 of the Convention and that it intends to honour its financial obligations once domestic budgetary constraints are overcome.
9. On 1 August 2024, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations informing that the Government of Bolivia wishes to exercise its right to vote pursuant to article 184 of the Convention and that it intends to honour its financial obligations once the internal procedures for payment transfers are completed.