

**Information Note on matters for consideration by the  
Council of the International Seabed Authority  
during the first part of the thirtieth session of the Authority.  
(17-28 March 2025)**

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**I. Introduction**

1. The thirtieth session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority, as outlined in the roadmap prepared by the President of the Council and endorsed by the Council during its July 2024 meetings ([ISBA/29/C/9/Add.1](#), Annex III), is set to take place in two parts. The first part will consist of ten meetings from 17 to 28 March 2024, following the ten-day meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission (3 to 14 March 2025). The second part is scheduled for 7 to 18 July 2025.

2. This note aims to inform members and observers of the International Seabed Authority on matters for consideration by the Council at its forthcoming March 2025 meetings. It provides an overview of the items on the provisional agenda of the Council ([ISBA/30/C/L.1](#)). The provisional agenda, the [indicative programme of work](#) and the [President's briefing note](#) on the revised consolidated text have been placed on the Authority's website: <https://www.isa.org.jm/session-30-council-part-1-march-2025/>. All official documents prepared for the upcoming meetings are placed on the website as they become available.

3. This note is to be read in conjunction with the note on logistical and procedural aspects. Pre-session documents on the Revised Consolidated Text (Word/PDF), the Revised Suspense Document (Word/PDF), the Compilation Document ([PDF](#)) and associate documents are also available for ease of reference on the webpage for the thirtieth session and can be found under the section "Council" and then on the right-side menu under "Part I (17-28 March 2025)", <https://www.isa.org.jm/session-30-council-part-1-march-2025/>. All submissions from delegations and observers have been uploaded within the respective folders of the written proposals.

**II. Opening of the session (item 1 of the provisional agenda, Monday 17 March 2025)**

4. The Council will open its thirtieth session on Monday 17 March 2025, at 10:00 am.

**III. Adoption of the agenda (item 2 of the provisional agenda, Monday 17 March 2025)**

5. Pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, at the beginning of each session, the Council shall adopt its agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The Council may, however, in urgent circumstances, make additions to the agenda at any time during a session.

6. Accordingly, the first decision of the Council will be the adoption of its agenda for the entire thirtieth session in 2025 ([ISBA/30/C/L.1](#)). For this first part of the session, a total of 10 items out of 20 currently listed on the provisional agenda of the Council will be considered by the Council as indicated on the [indicative programme of work](#). The Council will be invited to adopt the agenda of the Council.

**IV. Elections of the bureau (items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda, Monday 17 March 2025)**

7. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Council will move forward with the election of the bureau. Pursuant to rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, each year at its first regular session, the Council elects a President and four Vice-Presidents from among its members, so that each

regional group is represented by one delegate.

8. Members of the Council are reminded that following the principle of rotation between regional groups, it is the turn of the African Group to nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Council for the thirtieth session in 2025.

9. Regarding the nomination of Vice-Presidents, the Secretariat kindly requests regional groups to coordinate their candidate nominations for these positions in advance of the Council's opening session. This preparation will help ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings. Regional groups are encouraged to submit the nominations to the Secretary of the Council, Mr. Marcelino Miranda, at [mmiranda@isa.org.jm](mailto:mmiranda@isa.org.jm) at the earliest available opportunity.

**V. Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (item 11 of the provisional agenda, Monday 17- Friday 28 March 2025)**

***Presentation of the revised consolidated text of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area***

10. The Council will continue its consideration of the Draft Regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, as a matter of priority, following the road map endorsed by the Council during the July 2024 meetings ([ISBA/29/C/9/Add.1](#), Annex III). The road map took into account the progress made in the implementation of the road map for work on the draft regulations in 2023 and 2024 ([ISBA/28/C/24](#)), as well as the discussions on that matter held by the Council in the second part of its twenty-ninth session in July 2024.

11. According to the roadmap endorsed in July 2024 ([ISBA/29/C/9/Add.1](#), Annex III), the President of the Council presented, on 29 November 2024, the Revised Consolidated Text ([ISBA/30/C/CRP.1](#)) and Revised Suspense Document ([ISBA/30/C/CRP.2](#)), while the Compilation document ([ISBA/30/C/CRP.3](#)) on 5 December 2024.

12. Text in color identifies areas requiring further deliberation, while brackets indicate provisions still under discussion or where alternative wording has been proposed. Delegations are reminded that the Revised Consolidated Text will remain subject to further negotiation and discussion. Its primary purpose is to harmonize and streamline the text based on agreements and discussions held to date. The principle that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” continues to apply.

13. As indicated in the [President's briefing note](#), the President will provide on Monday 17 March 2025 a presentation of the **Revised Consolidated Text** of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, the **Revised Suspense Document**, retaining in particular draft provisions which are now proposed to be considered as part of the elaboration of draft standards and guidelines, and the **Compilation document**.

***Working modalities***

14. As outlined in the President's Briefing Note, the discussion of the Revised Consolidated Text will be conducted regulation by regulation. The primary objective is to expedite progress on the Revised Consolidated Text as much as possible, with the aim of completing its first reading during the March 2025 meetings. However, during discussions on specific regulations, facilitators or rapporteurs will provide reports to the President on the outcomes of the intersessional work in order to focus on controversial issues. Negotiations on the consolidated text will take place from Monday 17 March to

Wednesday 26 March, under the leadership of the President. These negotiations present an opportunity for in-depth discussions aimed at closing gaps, resolving outstanding divergences, and building consensus. The President will steer the process to address remaining differences on key issues and guide efforts toward achieving agreement on the text.

15. Informal discussions of intersessional working groups on controversial issues are encouraged during the mornings before the meetings or during the lunch breaks, under the co-ordination of the rapporteurs or delegations willing to facilitate those informal discussions.

### ***Standards and Guidelines***

16. Furthermore, according to the road map endorsed during the July 2024 meetings ([ISBA/29/C/9/Add.1](#), Annex III), on Thursday 27 March 2025, the Council will be invited to undertake high-level discussions on standards and guidelines, guided by the President.

17. The Council should consider that ten (10) phase I Standards and Guidelines have already been prepared in 2022 and can be accessed via the Authority's website ([ISBA/27/C/3-12](#)). Delegations are invited to pay attention to the Revised Suspense Document ([ISBA/30/C/CRP.2](#)), which consolidates the material proposed for removal from the Revised Consolidated Text and suggests its inclusion in the Standards and Guidelines, as well as other relevant rules, regulations, and procedures.

18. Building on the significant progress achieved on the Draft Exploitation Regulations since the release of the Standards and Guidelines in January 2022, the President of the Council has proposed, in the [President's briefing note](#), that the Council focus on the development of additional Standards and Guidelines, especially for Phase I. This discussion should aim to identify which Standards and Guidelines the Council are ready to review at this stage and determine which ones require updates from the Legal and Technical Commission before being presented to the Council. Such considerations are crucial, as certain aspects of the Draft Exploitation Regulations may have experienced significant changes, necessitating substantial revisions to maintain alignment and ensure consistency.

### ***Next steps***

19. On Friday 28 March 2025, facilitators and rapporteurs of the intersessional working groups will be invited to present their reports to the President, in case they conducted any informal discussions during the first part of the thirtieth session of the Council. Additionally, the Council will be invited to review the progress on the negotiations of the draft regulations and to agree on necessary intersessional work for the rest of the thirtieth session of the Council.

## **VI. Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council (item 5 of the provisional agenda, Thursday 27 March 2025)**

20. The Secretary-General will provide an oral report on the credentials of members of the Council. The Council will be invited to approve the report, pursuant to Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

## **VII. Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at the first part of its twenty-ninth session (item 14 of the provisional agenda, Thursday 27 March 2025)**

21. The Council will receive a report on the work undertaken by the Legal and Technical Commission during the first part of its 30th session, held from 3 to 14 March 2025. The report will be released

during the second week of the Council meetings, following its completion and translation into the official languages. The Council may review and take action on any specific recommendations presented by the Commission. The Secretariat will take note of the oral and written comments by participants during the meeting.

22. An addendum to the Chair's report on the work of the Legal and Technical Commission will be issued following the Commission's meetings in July 2025. As it has become the practice, the Council may subsequently adopt decisions on matters raised in these reports.

***Consideration, with a view to approval, of requests by contractors on the deferral of the relinquishment of part of their contract areas (item 14 of the provisional agenda, Thursday 27 March 2025)***

23. The Council will receive for its consideration the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission on a request by the Government of India on the deferral of the second relinquishment of part of its contract area. The Council will be invited to adopt the draft decision.

24. The Council will receive for its consideration the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission on a request by the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer) on the deferral of the relinquishment of part of its contract area. The Council will be invited to adopt the draft decision.

**VIII. Status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration (item 7 of the provisional agenda, Thursday 27 March 2025)**

25. The Council will receive for its consideration a report on the status of the contracts for exploration and periodic reviews of the implementation of plans of work for exploration. The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

**IX. Consideration and adoption of a process for the Authority's consideration and approval of applications for plans of work for exploitation in the absence of adopted regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (item 12 of the provisional agenda, Friday 28 March 2025)**

26. The Council will be invited to consider item 12, as proposed in a letter<sup>1</sup> sent by the Republic of Nauru by Note Verbale No.719/2024,<sup>2</sup> 12 November 2024.

Kingston, Jamaica, 5 February 2025

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Nauru-Letter-to-ISA-Council-President-re-Process-for-Plan-of-Work\\_10112024.pdf](https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Nauru-Letter-to-ISA-Council-President-re-Process-for-Plan-of-Work_10112024.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/NV-ISA-Council18.pdf>