

**INFORMATION NOTE ON MATTERS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED  
AUTHORITY AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION**

21-25 July 2025, Kingston

**Introduction**

1. The meeting of the thirtieth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority will be held from 21 to 25 July 2025, in Kingston, Jamaica, at the Jamaica Conference Centre.
2. The purpose of this note is to briefly describe the items contained in the provisional agenda of the Assembly (ISBA/30/A/L.1/Rev.1).
3. The revised 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)**

4. The thirtieth session of the Assembly will be declared open on Monday 21 July 2025 by the temporary President or by one of the Vice-Presidents and is scheduled to close on Friday 25 July 2025. Nauru (Asia-Pacific States), Portugal (Western European and Other States) and the Dominican Republic (Latin American and Caribbean States) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for the twenty-ninth session.

**Adoption of the agenda (item 2)**

5. The Assembly will commence its business with the adoption of its agenda for the session. The provisional agenda (ISBA/30/A/L.1/Rev.1) includes 17 items.

**Election of the President and Vice-Presidents (items 3 and 4)**

6. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Assembly will elect a President and Vice-Presidents. It is the turn of the Group of the Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) to nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Assembly for the thirtieth session.
7. Each of the other regional groups will be entitled to nominate a Vice-President of the Assembly.
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 ([MadamSecretary-General@isa.org.jm](mailto:MadamSecretary-General@isa.org.jm) and [protocol@isa.org.jm](mailto:protocol@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)**

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 23 July, from 2 to 2:45 pm and the presentation of the report by the Chair of the Credentials Committee is scheduled on Thursday 24 July. 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 ([MadamSecretary-General@isa.org.jm](mailto:MadamSecretary-General@isa.org.jm) and [protocol@isa.org.jm](mailto:protocol@isa.org.jm)).

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

10. The Assembly will continue its business with the consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (d) and (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 thirteen requests for observer status were received by the Secretary-General from the following entities:

- International Manganese Institute (ISBA/30/A/INF/1);
- Cobalt Institute (ISBA/30/A/INF/2);
- Earth Law Center (ISBA/30/A/INF/3);
- Ocean and Us (ISBA/30/A/INF/4);
- Kōrero o te Ōrau (ISBA/30/A/INF/5);
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (ISBA/30/A/INF/6);
- International Copper Study Group (ISBA/30/A/INF/7);
- International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ISBA/30/A/INF/8);
- International Nickel Study Group (ISBA/30/A/INF/9);
- China Oceanic Development Foundation (ISBA/30/A/INF/10);
- World Resources Institute (ISBA/30/A/INF/11);
- Seafloor Mineral Developers Association (ISBA/30/A/INF/12); and
- Oceano Azul Foundation (ISBA/30/A/INF/13).

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

12. The Assembly will hold an election to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee following the resignation of Mr. Christopher Hilton (United Kingdom) for the remainder of his term ending on 31 December 2027, 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. By a note verbale dated 1 April 2025, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of

the United Kingdom informed the secretariat of the Authority of the nomination of Lee-Anne Yarr to fill the vacancy. This is detailed in the note contained in the document ISBA/30/A/3.

**Annual report of the Secretary-General under article 166, paragraph 4, of the Convention (item 8)**

13. The Secretary-General will present her annual report submitted pursuant to article 166, paragraph 4, of the Convention (ISBA/30/A/2). The Assembly will be invited to take note of the information provided in the report.

14. 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/30/A/4). The Assembly will be invited to take note of the report, request the Secretary-General to continue her 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.

15. 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).

**Periodic review of the international regime of the Area (item 9)**

16. During the twenty-eighth 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 (see 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. Those recommendations are contained in the report of the Finance Committee (ISBA/29/A/9-ISBA/29/C/20).

17. During the previous session, the Assembly decided to defer its consideration of the question of the periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention as an agenda item for the thirtieth session of the Assembly in 2025.

**Report of the interim Director-General of the Enterprise (item 10 of the provisional agenda)**

18. The interim Director-General of the Enterprise will present his second 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/30/A/5-ISBA/30/C/8.

### **Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Seabed Authority (item 11)**

19. To celebrate the establishment of the International Seabed Authority upon the entry into force of the Convention as the Constitution for the Oceans, the Assembly will be invited to commemorate this milestone in international law by a series of events on 23 July which will be detailed in due course.

### **Report and recommendations of the Finance Committee (item 12)**

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

### **Need for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment: scope and parameters (item 16)**

21. As requested by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chile to the International Seabed Authority, the item “Need for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment: scope and parameters” has been included on the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session of the Assembly (ISBA/30/A/L.1/Rev.1).

### **Statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the thirtieth session (item 13)**

22. The President of the Council for the thirtieth session, Duncan Laki (Uganda), will deliver his statement on the work of the Council during the first and second parts of the twenty-ninth session (ISBA/30/C/5 and forthcoming ISBA/30/C/5/Add.1). The Assembly will be invited to take note of the report.

### **Report of the Credentials Committee (item 14)**

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

### **Dates of the next session (item 15)**

24. At the end of the session, the President of the Assembly will announce the dates for the thirty-first session of the Assembly.

### **Other matters (item 17)**

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

21 June 2025