

International Seabed Authority

Thirtieth session

Assembly

Agenda Item 16 “Need for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation for the protection of the marine environment ”

DRAFT DECISION

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling that Article 145 of Convention set the obligation to take necessary measures to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area,

Understanding the need for further discussion on the matter of a general policy for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

1. *Noting* the need to discuss the establishment, scope and parameters of a general environmental policy, in collaboration with the Council.
2. *Decides* to establish an informal intersessional dialogue to facilitate further discussion on the general policy with a view to establish a general policy pursuant to article 160 paragraph 1 of the Convention at the next meeting of the Assembly;
3. *Also decides* on the following modalities of the dialogue:
 - a. The dialogue shall be convened regularly between the date of adoption of the present decision and the next meeting of the Assembly, in July 2026, using virtual means, starting in September 2025.
 - b. The informal intersessional dialogue shall be open to all members of the Authority, observers and their designated experts
 - c. Co-Facilitators to be appointed at first meeting;
4. *Further decides* that the Co-Facilitators of the above-mentioned dialogue shall:
 - a. In accordance with paragraph 1 and paragraph 4, section 3 of the Annex of the Agreement, prepare and present a briefing note to the Council at the first part of its 31th Session for its consideration and recommendation to the intersessional informal dialogue; and

- b. Prepare and present a report of the discussions to the Assembly, including, based on the recommendation of the Council as per para 4, Section 3 of the Annex of the Agreement, a draft proposal of a possible General Policy to the Assembly, if any, for its consideration at its next meeting, in July 2026 with a view for adoption.
- 5. Requests the Secretariat to provide all necessary administrative and technical support as may be required by the Co-Facilitators.