



Council

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Agenda item 16

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission

Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority on the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 151, 163 and 164 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ and sections 1 and 7 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 1982,² which address the establishment, membership and functions of the Economic Planning Commission,

Recalling also that the Economic Planning Commission should be operational before the approval of the first plan of work for exploitation, so as to be in a position to consider and study, in a structured and systematic way, the impacts on developing land-based producer States, with a view to minimizing their difficulties and assisting them in their economic adjustment, taking into account the work already done by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority,

Considering that the Economic Planning Commission is composed of 15 members, to be elected every five years by the Council from among the candidates nominated by the States Parties,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission issued in 2022 and 2025,³

Recognizing the critical role of the Economic Planning Commission in supporting the work of the International Seabed Authority, particularly in relation to the potential economic impacts of activities in the Area on affected developing land-based producer States, as well as the establishment and management of the economic assistance fund,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

³ [ISBA/27/C/25](#) and [ISBA/30/C/11](#).



Recognizing also the advanced stage of the negotiations on the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and the need to ensure institutional preparedness for the transition to the exploitation phase,

1. *Decides* to initiate necessary steps with a view to operationalizing the Economic Planning Commission as a subsidiary organ of the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a proposal for election mechanisms of the Economic Planning Commission, in consultation with the Legal and Technical Commission for technical input only, for consideration by the Council during the first part of its thirty-first session;

3. *Requests* the Finance Committee to report to the Council during the second part of its thirty-first session detailing the financial implications of the establishment of the Economic Planning Commission and provide a report on the most practical timelines for the Commission to commence its work;

4. *Decides* to keep the matter under review.

*338th meeting
18 July 2025*
