



## Council

Advance Unedited Version  
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English only

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### Thirtieth session

Council session, part II

Kingston, 7–18 July 2025

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 Sea, 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 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 2022 and 2025 reports of the Secretary-General on the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission,

*Recognizing* the critical role of the Economic Planning Commission in supporting the work of the 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,

*Recognizing* also the advanced stage of negotiations on the draft regulations on exploitation of minerals 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 operationalize the Economic Planning Commission as a subsidiary organ of the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the 1994 Agreement;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for Economic Planning Commission election mechanisms, in consultation with the Legal and Technical Commission for technical input only, for consideration by the Council during the first part of its 31<sup>st</sup> session;
3. *Requests* the Finance Committee to report to the Council during the second part of its 31<sup>st</sup> session detailing the financial implications of the establishment of the Economic Planning Commission and provide a report on the most practical timelines when the Commission can commence its work.
4. *Decides* to keep the matter under review.

*338<sup>th</sup> meeting  
18 July 2025*