



Council

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Council session, part

Kingston, 7-18 July 2025

Agenda item 14

**Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical
Commission on the work of the Commission at the
second part of its thirtieth session**

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority for the adoption of the Revised Standardized Procedure for the Development, Establishment and Review of Regional Environmental Management Plans

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling article 145 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which requires the Authority to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area,

Recalling further articles 162 and 165 of the Convention and section 1 of the Annex to the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which set out the functions of the Council and the Legal and Technical Commission in relation to environmental protection,

Recognizing the essential role of regional environmental management plans (REMPs) in contributing to the Authority's mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, including through the establishment of area-based management tools and other environmental management measures,

Recalling the decision of the Council at its twenty sixth session, in which the Council, having considered the proposals on a procedure for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans,¹ and on a template with minimum requirements,² requested the Commission to develop a standardized approach, including a template with indicative elements, taking into account, as appropriate, the two proposals,³

¹ [ISBA/26/C/6](#)

² [ISBA/26/C/7](#)

³ [ISBA/26/C/10](#)

Recalling the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission at its thirtieth session concerning the revised standardized procedure for the development, establishment and review of REMPs, taking into consideration the comments received during the public consultation, as contained in document ISBA/30/C/3,

Welcoming the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission on technical guidance to support the practical implementation of the standardized procedure and template, as contained in ISBA/29/LTC/8,

Recognizing the importance of a transparent, inclusive, and science-based process for the development and review of REMPs, including the contribution of stakeholders,

Noting that the standardized procedure and template will need to be aligned with the draft exploitation regulations, once finalized;

Acknowledging the need for a standardized, structured and adaptive framework to guide the development and review of regional environmental management plans in various regions of the Area, consistent with the Authority's legal framework and environmental mandate,

1. *Decides* to adopt the revised standardized procedure for the development, establishment and review of regional environmental management plans, as contained in document ISBA/30/C/3;

2. *Requests* the Legal and Technical Commission and the Secretariat to implement the procedure in its future work related to the development and review of REMPs, including by applying the template and recommendations referenced in the document;

3. *Requests* the Legal and Technical Commission to advance its work on the development, implementation and review of REMPs in specific regions, with a view to recommending to the Council new regional environmental management plans for priority areas where there are currently exploration contracts, taking into account exploration or exploitation activities and the best available scientific information;

4. *Encourages* Member States, observers, contractors, sponsoring States, relevant stakeholders and competent international organizations to contribute data, knowledge and expertise to the development, implementation and review of REMPs, in accordance with the standardized procedure.