

**ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2015 TO 2018 IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION**

Note by the Secretariat

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of one-half of the members of the Council for the period **2015 to 2018**.

2. In accordance with paragraph 15, of section 3, 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 Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals<sup>1</sup> to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group [**Group A**];

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals [**Group B**];

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies [**Group C**];

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States

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<sup>1</sup> A mineral is a naturally occurring inorganic element or compound. Rocks, as distinct from minerals, are composed of assemblages of minerals. When minerals are found in sufficient concentration to warrant extraction by mining, the mineralized area is considered an ore deposit. The definition of ore is mineral that can be extracted from the ground as profit. SME Mining Engineering Handbook, Howard L. Hartman, senior ed., Littleton, Colo.: SME/AIME, 1992. Based on the definition of minerals and the requirement that production must be from areas under the jurisdiction of States Parties, the relevant statistics relate to the primary production of four minerals – ores of nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese – from areas under the jurisdiction of the State Party and exports of said ores.

with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States [**Group D**];

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Western Europe and Others [**Group E**].

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asian Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.”<sup>2</sup> It was understood, therefore, that for the period 2015 to 2018 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

- (a) In the first year (2015), the African Group would occupy nine seats;
- (b) In the second year (2016), the Asia and Pacific Group would occupy eight seats;
- (c) In the third year (2017), the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Group would occupy six seats;
- (d) In the fourth year (2018), the Western European and Others Group would occupy seven seats.

As agreed, the regional group which relinquishes a seat has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without a vote during the period of relinquishment.

4. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 20 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2012. A vacancy-filling election was held on 27 July 2012 when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years each from 2013 through 2016, subject to the understandings reached in the interest groups and regional groups (ISBA/18/A/10):

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<sup>2</sup> ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1. The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 47 member States.

Group A:	China, Japan
Group B:	India
Group C:	Canada, South Africa
Group D:	Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda
Group E:	Argentina, Czech Republic, Guyana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

At the same time, it was agreed that Netherlands is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2016). Spain is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2014. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2015

## II. ELECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2015 TO 2018

5. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly, the terms of office of 17 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2014. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

### Group A (4 members)

6. The current composition of Group A is **China** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Japan** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Italy** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014), the **Russian Federation** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014). **Two** vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2015 to 2018.

### Group B (4 members)

7. The current composition of Group B is **India** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), the **Republic of Korea** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014), **France** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014) and **Germany** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014). **Three** vacancies will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2013 to 2016.

### Group C (4 members)

8. The current composition of Group C is **Australia** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014), **South Africa** (elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Canada** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Indonesia** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term with the understanding that it would relinquish its seat to **Chile** after two years for the remainder of the four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014). **Two** vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2015 to 2018.

Group D (6 members)

9. The current composition of Group D is **Bangladesh** (elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Brazil** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Uganda** (elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Egypt** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014), **Fiji** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014), **Jamaica** (re-elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014). **Three** vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2015 to 2018.

Group E (18 members)

10. The current composition of Group E is **Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Kenya, Poland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Spain, Argentina, the Czech Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago** (re-elected/elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016). **Nigeria, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Mexico** (elected in 2010 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2014). **Seven** vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2015 to 2018.

11. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period 2012 to 2016 is provided as Annex I.

12. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority which are potential members of the groups defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the agreement is provided as Annex II.

## Annex I

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL 2012 TO 2016						
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Group A (4 members)</b>						
Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan		
Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation				
China	China	China	China	China		
Italy	Italy	Italy				
<b>Group B (4 members)</b>						
Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea				
India	India	India	India	India		
France	France	France				
Germany	Germany	Germany				
<b>Group C (4 members)</b>						
Australia	Australia	Australia				
Indonesia	Chile	Chile				
Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada		
South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa		
<b>Group D (6 members)</b>						
Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil		
Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh		
Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica				
Sudan	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda		
Egypt	Egypt	Egypt				
Fiji	Fiji	Fiji				
<b>Group E (18 members)</b>						
Angola	Mozambique	Mozambique	Mozambique	Mozambique		
Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia		
Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal		
Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria				
Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon				
Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire				
Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya		
Viet Nam	Viet Nam	Viet Nam				
Qatar	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka				
Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland		
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom <sup>3</sup>	Norway	United Kingdom		
Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands <sup>4</sup>	Norway		
Spain	Spain	Norway	Spain	Spain <sup>5</sup>		
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic		

<sup>3</sup> The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2015. ISBA/18/A/10.

<sup>4</sup> The Netherlands is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2016). ISBA/18/A/10.

<sup>5</sup> Spain is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2014. ISBA/18/A/10.

Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina		
Chile	Indonesia	Indonesia				
Mexico	Mexico	Mexico				
Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana		
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago		

## Annex II

### INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT

<b>GROUP A</b> <b>MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS</b> (Derived from lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 of ISBA/20/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Gabon	Republic of Korea
Belgium	Germany	Norway
Bolivia	India	South Africa
Brazil	Italy	Spain
China	Japan	(United States of America)
France	(Kazakhstan)	

(Non-members of the ISA)

<b>GROUP B</b> <b>MAJOR INVESTORS</b> (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/20/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Netherlands	(United States of America)

(Non-member of the ISA)

<b>GROUP C</b> <b>MAJOR NET EXPORTERS AND DEVELOPING STATE MAJOR EXPORTERS</b> (Derived from list 6 of ISBA/20/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Germany	Russian Federation
Canada	Indonesia	United Kingdom
Chile	Japan	(United States of America)
China	(Peru)	

(Non-member of the ISA)

**GROUP D****GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS**

Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States  
(Derived from lists 7 to 13 of ISBA/20/A/CRP.2)

Algeria	Guinea	Paraguay
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Peru
Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti	Philippines
Argentina	India	Qatar
Bahamas	Indonesia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bahrain	Iraq	Saint Lucia
Bangladesh	Jamaica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Barbados	Jordan	Samoa
Belize	Kiribati	Sao Tome and Principe
Benin	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia
Bolivia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Senegal
Botswana	Liberia	Serbia
Brazil	Madagascar	Seychelles
Cameroon	Malaysia	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Maldives	Singapore
Chad	Mali	Solomon Islands
Chile	Malta	Somalia
China	Marshall Islands, the	South Africa
Comoros	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Congo	Mauritius	Sudan
Cook Islands	Mexico	Suriname
Côte d'Ivoire	Micronesia (Federated States of)	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Cyprus	Mongolia	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Montenegro	Togo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mozambique	Tonga
Djibouti	Myanmar	Tuvalu
Dominica	Nauru	Uganda
Dominican Republic	Nepal	United Republic of Tanzania
Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Fiji	Niue	Yemen
Gabon	Oman	Zambia
Gambia	Pakistan	
Ghana	Palau	
Grenada	Papua New Guinea	

**GROUP E**

**MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS**

<b>African Group (47 members)</b>		
Algeria	Gabon	Niger
Angola	Gambia	Nigeria
Benin	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Botswana	Guinea	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Lesotho	Somalia
Chad	Liberia	South Africa
Comoros	Madagascar	Sudan
Congo	Malawi	Swaziland
Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Togo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritania	Tunisia
Djibouti	Mauritius	Uganda
Egypt	Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
Equatorial Guinea	Mozambique	Zambia
	Namibia	Zimbabwe

<b>Asia &amp; Pacific Group (44 members)</b>		
Bahrain	Lebanon	Philippines
Bangladesh	Malaysia	Qatar
Brunei Darussalam	Maldives	Republic of Korea
China	Marshall Islands	Samoa
Cook Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Saudi Arabia
Cyprus	Mongolia	Singapore
Fiji	Myanmar	Solomon Islands
India	Nauru	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Nepal	Thailand
Iraq	Niue	Timor-Leste
Japan	Oman	Tonga
Jordan	Pakistan	Tuvalu
Kiribati	Palau	Vanuatu
Kuwait	Papua New Guinea	Viet Nam
Lao People's Democratic Republic		Yemen

Eastern European Group (22 members)		
Albania	Georgia	Russian Federation
Armenia	Hungary	Serbia
Belarus	Latvia	Slovakia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lithuania	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Montenegro	The former Yugoslav
Croatia	Poland	Republic of Macedonia
Czech Republic	Republic of Moldova	Ukraine
Estonia	Romania	

Latin American and Caribbean States Group (29 members)		
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Nicaragua
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Panama
Bahamas	Ecuador	Paraguay
Barbados	Grenada	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belize	Guatemala	Saint Lucia
Bolivia	Guyana	Saint Vincent and the
Brazil	Haiti	Grenadines
Chile	Honduras	Suriname
Costa Rica	Jamaica	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Mexico	Uruguay

Western European and Other States Group (23 members)		
Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Iceland	Norway
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Canada	Italy	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Malta	Switzerland
France	Monaco	United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Germany	Netherlands	Northern Ireland