

## Draft road map for the twenty-eighth session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority in 2023

### Proposed by the President of the Council

1. The following road map is proposed for the organization of discussions in the Council in 2023 on the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, together with associated Standards and Guidelines. The road map takes into account the progress made in implementation of the road map for work on the draft regulations in 2022 (ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1, Annex) as well as the discussion on that matter in the Council in November 2022 and includes a tentative allocation of time during the meetings of the Council scheduled for 2023.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Council is currently working on the draft regulations in a format of informal meetings,<sup>2</sup> organized in the following way:<sup>3</sup>
  - (a) Open-ended working group (OEWG) in respect of the development and negotiation of the financial terms of a contract, chaired by Olav Myklebust (Norway);
  - (b) Informal working group (IWG) on the protection and preservation of the marine environment, facilitated by Raijeli Taga (Fiji);
  - (c) Informal working group (IWG) on inspection, compliance and enforcement, facilitated by Maureen Tamuro (Nigeria);
  - (d) Informal working group (IWG) on institutional matters (including the role and responsibilities of the various organs of the Authority, timelines, recourse to independent expertise and stakeholder participation), facilitated by Gina Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica) and Constanza Figueroa (Chile);
  - (e) Council as a whole, in plenary,<sup>4</sup> on regulations not allocated to informal working groups, facilitated by the President of the Council, Tomasz Abramowski.
3. The facilitator of each IWG presents an oral report to the Plenary at the end of each meeting of the Council. For the purposes of the road map for 2023 it is assumed that these modalities will continue and that the allocation of time to each IWG and to the Council as a whole in each meeting will reflect the work remaining to be completed by that IWG, including any work required on relevant Standards and Guidelines. Once any IWG completes its work,

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<sup>1</sup> Dates indicated are the dates programmed for the meetings of the Authority in 2023 and agreed with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management taking into account the schedule of law of the sea related meetings and the calendar on Conferences of the United Nations.

<sup>2</sup> ISBA/27/C/21.

<sup>3</sup> ISBA/24/C/8/Add.1 (annex II) and ISBA/26/C/11.

<sup>4</sup> ISBA/27/C/21.

more time would be allocated to the remaining IWGs. To enable delegations to organize themselves efficiently, an indicative schedule of work will be issued at least one month prior to each meeting, indicating the precise dates when each IWG is expected to convene.

<i>Organ</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Working methods</i>	<i>Tentative agenda</i>
Council (intersessional work between delegations as required) Deadline for comments on facilitator's text is 15 January 2023. Revised texts to be issued as soon as possible thereafter.			
<b><i>First part (March 2023)</i></b>			
Legal and Technical Commission	7-15 March 2023 (7 days)		
Council	16 March-31 March 2023 (12 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal meetings (2 days)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing items and items on the agenda requiring decision by Council, including decision on the Enterprise and Economic Planning Commission</li> </ul>
		(a) OEWG in respect of the development and negotiation of the financial terms of a contract (2 days)	(a) To continue its work based on progress made at the Council's meeting in October-November 2022.
		(b) IWG on the protection and preservation of the marine environment (3 days)	(b) To continue its work based on progress made at the Council's meeting in October-November 2022.
		(c) IWG on inspection, compliance, and enforcement (1.5 days)	(c) To continue its work based on progress made at the Council's meeting in October-November 2022.

		(d) IWG on institutional matters (2 days)	(d) To continue its work based on progress made at the Council's meeting in October-November 2022.
		(e) Council in plenary (1.5 days)	(e) To continue its work based on progress made at the Council's meeting in October-November 2022.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of progress and agreement on intersessional work</li> </ul>	
Council (intersessional work between delegations as required)			
<b><i>Second part (July 2023)</i></b>			
Legal and Technical Commission	29 June-7 July 2023 (7 days)		
Finance Committee	5 July-7 July 2023 (3 days)		
Council	10-21 July 2023 (10 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal meetings (2 days)</li> <li>• Informal meetings of working groups and of the Council in plenary (subject to progress made by each group during ISBA/28, part I)</li> </ul> <p>(a) OEWG in respect of the development and negotiation of the financial terms of a contract (2 days)</p> <p>(b) IWG on the protection and preservation of the marine environment (1.5 days)</p> <p>(c) IWG on inspection, compliance, and enforcement (1 day)</p> <p>(d) IWG on institutional matters (2 days)</p> <p>(e) Council in plenary (1.5 days)</p>	Precise agenda to be agreed based on progress made at the Council's meeting in March 2023.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plenary: Review of Progress and adoption of regulations in the event they are ready for adoption.</li> </ul>	
Assembly	24-28 July 2023 (5 days)		
<b><i>Third part (October-November 2023)</i></b>			
Council	30 October-8 November 2023 (8 days)	Other Council business.	