



Assembly

Distr.: General
24 June 2022

Original: English

Twenty-seventh session

Kingston, 1–5 August 2022

Item 19 of the provisional agenda*

Other matters

Proposed amendments to rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

Submitted by Belgium

I. Introduction

1. Belgium considers that all stakeholders should be heard during the debates of the Assembly and the Council. Therefore, Belgium gives the opportunity to both the Belgian contractor and Belgian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be included in its delegation, without the right to speak in the name of Belgium. Most of the time, the Belgian NGOs have declined the offer, as they are part of larger international NGOs with observer status. Equally, most of the time, the Belgian contractor has accepted the offer and has been included in the delegation. On one occasion, the contractor spoke after having been introduced by the head of delegation, who specified that the contractor was speaking on its own behalf and not that of Belgium.

II. Reason for submission

2. Belgium considers that the perspectives of both NGOs and contractors merit being heard, in their own right, by the Assembly and the Council.

III. Objective

3. Belgium proposes that the Assembly give to industry and the Enterprise the same rights as NGOs through observer status. As a medium-term objective, Member States should promote some organization among contractors or NGOs in this regard, for example through an association of contractors or NGOs given observer status, in order to increase the efficiency of the Assembly and Council meetings.

* ISBA/27/A/L.1.



IV. Recommendation

4. The Assembly is invited to consider the proposed amendments set out in the annex to the present document.

Annex**Proposed amendments to rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority**

1. Insert subparagraph 1 (f) and (g) as follows:
 - (f) Representatives of the entities having obtained a contract with the Authority in application of article 153, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
 - (g) The Enterprise referred to in article 170, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the law of Sea.
 2. Amend paragraph 5 to read as follows:
 5. Observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e), (f) and (g) of this rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly, and upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities.
 3. Amend paragraph 6 to read as follows:
 6. Written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e), (f) and (g) of this rule within the scope of their activities which are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.
-