



## Assembly

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### Twenty-seventh session

Kingston, 1–5 August 2022

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly**

### **Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly by Oceans North**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

1. On 29 April 2022, Oceans North submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority, pursuant to rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly. The applicant also submitted an application form, which was prepared in the format prescribed in enclosure 1 to the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session (ISBA/25/A/16, annex). The text of the letter and the application form provided by the applicant are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule also provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the 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, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the rule within the scope of their activities that 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.

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\* ISBA/27/A/L.1.



## Annex I

### **Letter dated 29 April 2022 from the Vice-President of Projects and Operations at Oceans North addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority**

On behalf of Oceans North, a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to marine sustainable development, conservation and research, I am writing to apply for observer status. Per article 169 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority; and the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority, Oceans North requests observer status with the International Seabed Authority as a non-governmental organization. Attached is our formal application (see annex II) in the prescribed format. We look forward to becoming an observer with the International Seabed Authority and joining the diverse community of States and observers working towards fulfilling its mandate. We anticipate contributing our expertise to boost the Authority's work on the effective protection of the marine environment, as well as the equitable benefit-sharing of deep-sea resources.

*(Signed)* Susanna **Fuller**  
Vice-President, Projects and Operations  
Oceans North

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## Annex II

### Application for observer status

#### A. Information about the organization

**1. Name of organization**

Oceans North

**2. Address of headquarters**

Headquarters, 100 Gloucester Street Suite 502, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A4, Canada

**3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters**

Winnipeg Office  
550–70 Arthur Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1G7  
[winnipegoffice@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:winnipegoffice@oceansnorth.ca)

Halifax Office  
1459 Hollis St. Suite 301  
Halifax, NS B3J 1V1  
[halifaxoffice@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:halifaxoffice@oceansnorth.ca)

**4. Telephone number**

Susanna Fuller: 902 483 5033

Nicole Zanesco: 587 573 7513

**5. Fax number**

Not applicable

**6. Email address**

[ottawaoffice@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:ottawaoffice@oceansnorth.ca)

[susannafuller@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:susannafuller@oceansnorth.ca)

[nzanesco@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:nzanesco@oceansnorth.ca)

**7. Name, title and contact details of focal point**

Susanna Fuller, Vice-President, Projects and Operations

[susannafuller@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:susannafuller@oceansnorth.ca)

902 483 5033

Nicole Zanesco, International Policy Advisor

[nzanesco@oceansnorth.ca](mailto:nzanesco@oceansnorth.ca)

587 573 7513

**8. Background information on the organization**

Oceans North is a charitable organization based in Canada, with offices spread across the country. Our mission is to foster science- and community-based conservation in Canada's Arctic and Atlantic, in Greenland and in international waters. Through the promotion of policies and programs, our goal is to address the unprecedented environmental changes taking place in marine ecosystems and ensure

that they are protected within the framework of Indigenous knowledge, rights and consultation, with a prioritization of precautionary, science-based decision-making.

To advance our mission, Oceans North works with communities throughout Canada's Arctic and Atlantic, as well as with coalitions of organizations around the world. At both the domestic and international levels, Oceans North advocates nuanced conservation programmes and robust policy fit to provide future generations with healthy and productive ecosystems.

A key component of our work is the acknowledgement that humans and nature are mutually reliant; responsible conservation can take place with responsible harvesting. We are dedicated to centring humans in conversations and campaigns for the sustainable protection of marine ecosystems.

**9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?**

Oceans North is a member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition.

**10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?**

No.

**11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations**

Oceans North, through the Canadian delegation, attends meetings for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the North West Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

**12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation**

- *Charting a Course for Net Zero: Critical First Steps on a Hydrogen Pathway* (2021)
- "Incorporating climate change into fisheries management in Atlantic Canada and the Eastern Arctic" (2021)
- *Turning up the Heat: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries in Atlantic Canada and the Eastern Arctic* (2021)
- *Incorporating Coasts and Oceans into Canada's 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement* (2021)
- *Towards a Waste-Free Arctic* (2021)
- "Underwater soundscape and radiated noise from ships in Eclipse Sound, NE Canadian Arctic" (2021)
- *Financial Analysis: Mary River Iron Ore Mine* (2021)
- *Value of Atlantic Mackerel and Stock Rebuilding in Canada* (2020)
- *Restoring Our Ocean: Supporting Conservation-based Economic Recovery* (2020)
- "Atlantic Canada environmental DNA workshop report" (2019)
- "Informing Canada's G7 presidency: a workshop on global marine plastics solutions" (2018)

- “The Integrated Arctic Corridors Framework: planning for responsible shipping in Canada’s Arctic waters” (2016)
- “Becoming Arctic-ready: policy recommendations for reforming Canada’s approach to licensing and regulating offshore arctic oil and gas” (2011)

## **B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly**

### **13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.**

Oceans North is engaged in domestic and international efforts to understand, manage and protect deep sea ecosystems. This work includes research into deep-sea mining and its potential environmental impacts, as well as the policies needed to effectively govern such activities in national and international waters. Our expertise in managing and modernizing existing industries, such as fishing and shipping, will inform our contributions to the International Seabed Authority, which will manifest as submissions, interventions and joint research publications focused on the effective protection of deep-sea ecosystems and the equitable sharing of marine resources. At such a crucial time, when the Authority is developing the regulations, standards and guidelines for deep-sea resource extraction, it is critical to have diverse expertise and heightened capacity to ensure that the policies governing such activities are robust and that the Authority is upholding its mandated responsibility for the international seabed.

### **14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.**

Oceans North has a strong history of successfully balancing human interests and conservation when designing and implementing large-scale environmental protection programmes and policies. From marine and Indigenous protected areas, fishery policies and shipping innovations to international environmental treaty negotiations, Oceans North has consistently provided communities and governments with sound recommendations based on science and the precautionary approach. Contributing to the sustainable and effective management of the deep sea is critical for maintaining ocean health as a whole but also for upholding our collective duty to care for the common heritage of humankind.

### **15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.**

Oceans North intends to contribute to the drafting of the regulations, standards and guidelines through comments and interventions, as well as to conduct research into the most effective ways to protect and manage the international seabed, with joint publications.

We further intend to participate in discussions at the International Seabed Authority on the best way to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adhere to the Authority’s mandate and protect the common heritage of humankind for future generations. Our expertise in integrating scientific research, traditional knowledge and economic necessities into environmental policy prepares us to support the Authority, its member States and observers in the governance of the seabed and oversight of the resources within it.

- 16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.**

Oceans North is active in developing domestic and international environmental policies. Our expertise played a key role in the development and completion of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean; we have been involved in the negotiation process on a treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction for over a decade, and we continue to sit on the Canadian Convention on Biological Diversity and North West Atlantic Fisheries Organization delegations, to which we provide critical expertise on fisheries management, the successful integration of science into policy, and a science- and community-based approach to fostering biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Oceans North has also informed numerous large-scale conservation initiatives throughout the Arctic and Atlantic, including Tallurutiup Imanga and Pikialasorsuaq.

Oceans North is well versed in domestic and international policy development and implementation and has the capacity to focus on deep-sea mining, its management and the research needed to ensure that the seabed remains a healthy ecosystem anchor for the rest of the water column.

- 17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).**

Oceans North is experienced in capacity-building programming in initiatives within Canada's Arctic, as well as international forums such as the negotiations on a treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Oceans North can and will contribute to capacity-building at the International Seabed Authority in whatever way is helpful and necessary. Specific areas where our expertise will be helpful include providing scientific and legal input, participating in discussions surrounding the development and adoption of environmental regulations, and the establishment of an equitable benefit-sharing regime.

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