



Assembly

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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 the World Organization of Dredging Associations

Note by the secretariat

1. On 5 May 2022, the World Organization of Dredging Associations submitted an application to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority 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 application provided by the applicant is contained in the annex to the present note.
2. The Assembly is invited to note that paragraph 7 of the annex to decision [ISBA/25/A/16](#) provides that each applicant must submit a request in writing no less than three months before the opening of the session of the Assembly at which the request is to be reviewed. Consequently, all requests for consideration at the present session had to be received by the Secretary-General by 1 May 2022. Bearing in mind that the application was received on 5 May 2022, the applicant has requested that the Assembly consider its late application at the present session on an exceptional basis.
3. 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.
4. 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.

* [ISBA/27/A/L.1](#).



Annex

Application for observer status

A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization

World Organization of Dredging Associations

2. Address of headquarters

Rotterdamseweg 183c, 2629 HD Delft, the Netherlands

3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters

Not applicable

4. Telephone number

+31 15 268 2575

5. Fax number

Not applicable

6. Email address

ceda@dredging.org

7. Name, title and contact details of focal point

Mieke van Loenen, General Manager, Central Dredging Association

8. Background information on the organization

The World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA) is composed of three sister, professional not-for-profit associations: the Western Dredging Association (WEDA), serving North, Central and South America; the Central Dredging Association (CEDA), serving Europe, Africa and the Middle East; and the Eastern Dredging Association (EADA), serving the Asian, Australasian and Pacific regions. The member associations bring together all stakeholders in the field, including project owners and developers, dredging and marine contractors, shipyards and equipment suppliers, consultants, knowledge institutes and regulators. WODA provides an independent forum for improving communication and technology transfer and promoting the integration and understanding of knowledge and experiences among all interested stakeholders to facilitate economic, social and ecological sustainability across all dredging-related activities, including dredging for navigation, coastal protection, mining and deep-sea mining, facilitating energy offshore energy production and the environmental clean-up of contaminated sediments (www.woda.org).

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

CEDA is not a member of or affiliated with any other organization with observer status with the Authority.

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?

We are a membership organization, and some our members work in the offshore and deep-sea mining industry. We are not aware of their relationships with the authority.

11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations

WODA has an official non-governmental observer status at the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and the Protocol thereto (London Protocol), for which the International Maritime Organization is responsible. Furthermore, one of the three sister associations of WODA, CEDA, has an official observer status in the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, and in the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. Furthermore, CEDA has a formal stakeholder status in the strategic coordination groups of the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union.

12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

- Deep-sea mining portal: <https://dredging.org/resources/ceda-publications-online/deep-sea-mining-information-portal>.
- Soil investigation. A CEDA information paper, 19 April 2021.
- Assessing and Evaluating Environmental Turbidity Limits for Dredging. A CEDA Information Paper, 25 May 2020.
- Effective Contract-Type Selection in the Dredging Industry. A Guidance Paper, 14 November 2019.
- Sustainable Management of the Beneficial Use of Sediments – Case Studies Review. A CEDA Information Paper, 22 March 2019.
- Assessing the Benefits of Using Contaminated Sediments. A CEDA Position Paper, 21 March 2019.
- Dredging for Sustainable Infrastructure, 2018.
- CEDA's Checklist for Successful Dredging Management-Extract, 2 December 2017.
- Environmental Monitoring Procedures. A CEDA Information Paper, 24 April 2015.
- Integrating Adaptive Environmental Management into Dredging Projects. A CEDA Position Paper, 10 March 2015.
- WODA Technical Guidance on Underwater Sound in Relation to Dredging, 1 June 2013.
- Ecosystem Services and Dredging and Marine Construction. A CEDA Position Paper, 1 June 2013.

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.**

WODA demonstrates its interest in the matters under consideration by the Authority through the establishment of a working group to promote the use of robust scientific evidence on environmental effects in policies and regulations for deep-sea mining. The working group will provide a technical forum for dredging community specialists with an interest in environmental effects, with the key aim to produce evidence that will feed into the work of the Authority.

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

The marine dredging community, as represented by WODA, can contribute wide international experience in the extraction of bulk materials from the seabed and the management of the environmental effects of such operations. In addition, the community is already transferring this expertise into the deep-sea mining developer community. WODA can therefore contribute relevant practical expertise in marine extraction activities to the work of the Authority.

- 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.**

The WODA working group on the environmental effects of deep-sea mining will be specifically tasked with contributing to the work of the Authority. It will provide input to consultation exercises undertaken by the Authority, as well as evidence gathered by WODA members that support the robust evidence-based regulation of the environmental effects of mining activities.

- 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.**

WODA brings together at a global level all those in the dredging community. It includes a wide membership of dredging and marine contractors, research institutions and consultants, academics and education institutes, and designers and builders of dredger vessels. Some of the expertise acquired by this community is already being adopted by the deep-sea mining community, including with respect to the management of environmental effects. As a community, we are therefore well placed to supply practical knowledge and evidence to support policy and technical guidance formulation by the Authority. The WODA working group is being established to assist the Authority in this process.

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).

The WODA working group will help to inform the formulation of policy by the Authority, with a realistic understanding of the nature of the environmental effects of deep-sea mining activities and of what is practically achievable. Our proposed working group will coordinate and respond to opportunities, as offered by the Authority, for the dredging community to provide input on technical guidance documents on the environmental effects of deep-sea mining. The working group will also act as a channel for providing scientific evidence on environmental effects collected by the dredging community back into the Authority's scientific forums on deep-sea mining.
