



Information Note on matters for consideration by the Council of the International Seabed Authority during the second part of the twenty-seventh session of the Authority

I. Introduction

1. As scheduled in the roadmap on the work of the Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area in 2022, the Council of the International Seabed Authority will hold ten meetings from 18 to 29 July 2022 during the second part of the twenty-seventh session (Part II session), immediately after the two-week meeting of the Legal and technical Commission and one week before the meeting of the Assembly. The third part of the twenty-seventh session (subject to resources) is tentatively scheduled to be held from 31 October to 11 November 2022.

2. At the first part of the session in March 2022, the Council elected Tomasz Abramowski (Poland) as President of the Council, together with Sierra Leone (African States), Jamaica (Latin American and Caribbean States), Canada (Western European and other States) and the Republic of Korea (Asia Pacific States) as Vice-Presidents for the twenty-seventh session (ISBA/27/C/21); the Council also adopted its agenda for the whole twenty-seventh session (ISBA/27/C/1).

3. The purpose of this note is to inform representatives of members and of observers of the International Seabed Authority on matters for consideration by the Council at its upcoming Part II session.

4. This note briefly describes the items of the agenda of the Council for the twenty-seventh session (ISBA/27/C/1) for consideration at the Part II session. The agenda, the indicative programme of work and all official documents prepared for the forthcoming session have been placed on the Authority's website. This will continue to be updated as more documents become available.

5. This note is to be read in conjunction with the information on logistical and procedural aspects for the twenty-seventh session of the Council (Part II) and the Assembly.¹ Pre-session documents for the Council, for the Open-ended Working Group on financial aspects of a contract and for the three Informal Working Groups of the Council are also grouped for ease of reference on the page for the twenty-seventh session/Council/part II top right menu. Please kindly note that the email for submission of statements and textual proposals during the meetings is council@isa.org.jm.

II. Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council (item 5 of the agenda)

6. Among the standing item of business for the Council is the report on credentials of members of the Council. The Secretary-General will provide orally a report on the credentials of members of the Council.

III. Election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission (item 6 of the agenda)

7. The list of candidates submitted by States Parties for the election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission are contained in the documents ISBA/27/C/23 and ISBA/27/C/23/Add.1.

¹ [https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/Information on logistical and procedural aspects 0.pdf](https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/Information%20on%20logistical%20and%20procedural%20aspects%200.pdf)

8. At its March meetings, the Council adopted a decision relating to the election in 2022 of members of the Legal and Technical Commission (ISBA/27/C/20). By this decision, the Council has established an informal contact group to be convened by the President of the Council to develop a mechanism for the election of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission. The Present will present the outcome of the work of the informal contact group at the meetings of the Council in July 2022.

IV. Status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration (item 7 of the agenda)

9. To assist the Council in its consideration of this regular item on its agenda, a report has been prepared (see ISBA/27/C/28) which provides an update on the status of contracts for exploration, including information on periodic reviews of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration. The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in that report.

V. Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed matters and related matters (item 10 of the agenda)

10. As a standing item on the agenda, the Council will consider the report of the Secretary-general on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining (see ISBA/27/C/26).

VI. Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (item 11 of the agenda)

11. The Council will continue its consideration of the Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area as a matter of priority. The Council will continue to implement the roadmap for the work on the draft regulations during the twenty-seventh session, in 2022 (ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1, Annex) and will build on the progress made at its meetings in March 2022.

12. Consideration will continue to take place both in plenary and in an informal setting when the Open-ended Working Group in respect of the development and negotiation of the financial terms of a contract under article 13, paragraph 1, of annex III to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and section 8 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 and the three Informal Working Groups established by the Council in 2020 (ISBA/26/C/11) will meet. It is recalled that these groups will not meet in parallel.

13. In line with the schedule of meetings endorsed by the Council in March 2022, the Open-ended Working Group will meet for two days, the Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment for two and a half days, the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement for one day and the Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters for one day and a half.

14. Discussion will continue in each of the working group on the basis of the texts prepared by the Chair and Facilitators on the basis of the outcome and proposals made during and after the Part I session. Discussion in the Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment will also benefit from clarification provided during the webinar on the Environment Compensation Fund which Dr Taga, the Facilitator of that working Group hosted on 21 June 2022.

15. By the end of the second week, the Council will receive oral reports from the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group and from the Facilitators and Co-Facilitators. The Council will then review the progress made on the roadmap and agree on the intersessional work.

VII. Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2021 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (item 12 of the agenda)

16. At its meetings in December 2021, the Council adopted a decision relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (ISBA/26/C/57). In response to the request made in paragraph 24 of that decision, the Secretary-General has prepared a report on the implementation of that decision for consideration by the Council at its meeting in July (see 27/C/27). The Council is invited to take note of the report and to provide such guidance as may be necessary.

VIII. Report of the Secretary-General concerning the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission (item 13 of the agenda)

17. In response to the request of the Council in its decision ISBA/26/C/57 of 10 December 2021, the Council will be presented with a report concerning the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission, including its financial implications for its consideration (ISBA/27/C/25). The Council will be invited to take note of the present report and to provide such guidance as may be necessary.

IX. Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at the second part of its twenty-seventh session (item 14 of the agenda)

18. The Council will receive an addendum to the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work carried out during the Part II session of the Commission immediately prior to the part II session of the Council. The Council will consider and take any action on any specific recommendations made by the Commission.

19. The Council will also be invited to adopt a decision on matters raised in the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work carried out at its meetings in March 2022 (ISBA/27/C/16) and in the addendum to that report.

X. Report of the Finance Committee, budget of the International Seabed Authority and scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority (items 15, 16 and 17 of the agenda)

20. The Council will receive a report and recommendation from the Finance Committee and make recommendations to be forwarded to the Assembly concerning the budget of the Authority for financial period 2023-2024 and the indicative scale of assessment for contributions to the budget. The Council will also receive an update on the consideration of the development of rules, regulations, and procedures on equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area.

XI. Report on matters relating to the Enterprise (item 18 of the agenda)

21. At the March meetings of the Council, in the consideration of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise (ISBA/27/C/14), some delegations, while recognizing the importance of following a timely step-by-step approach for the operationalization of the Enterprise, requested more time to review the questions raised in the report with regard to the appointment of an interim director general in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1994 Agreement. Accordingly, this has been added to the indicative programme of work for the Council for the July meetings.

XII. Cooperation with other relevant international organizations (item 19 of the agenda)

22. Under this item, the Council is invited to take note of the note with the memorandum of understanding between the International Seabed Authority and the African Union in the annex to the note

(see ISBA/27/C/29). The council is also invited to approve the memorandum of understanding between the International Seabed Authority and the African Union.

XIII. Dates of the next session (item 20 of the agenda)

23. In line with the roadmap endorsed by the Council in December 2021, the dates for the third part of the twenty-seventh session are from 31 October until 11 November 2022, subject to resources. These will be confirmed in due course.

Kingston, 30 June 2022