



International Seabed Authority 26th Session 2021

INFORMATION NOTE ON MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY DURING THE IN-PERSON MEETINGS OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY

Kingston, Jamaica

Introduction

1. The purpose of this note is to inform members and observers of the International Seabed Authority on matters for consideration by the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority at its forthcoming in-person meeting of the twenty-sixth session of the Authority, which is scheduled for 13 to 15 December 2021 at the Jamaica Conference Center, Kingston, Jamaica. Under the presidency of Ambassador Denys Wibaux (France), the Assembly will meet in-person in a reduced format to conclude the work on the agenda of the Assembly for the twenty-sixth session ([ISBA/26/A/1](#)).
2. This note briefly describes the items on the agenda of the Assembly for consideration at its December meetings. The agenda, the indicative programme of work and the official documents prepared for the upcoming meetings have been placed on the Authority's website. This will continue to be updated as more documents become available. It is recalled that the Assembly has managed to adopt decisions on matters of procedural nature and on time-sensitive matters under the silence procedure since September 2020. The December meetings will provide an opportunity for the Assembly to complete other pending agenda items.
3. A separate information note concerning the preliminary modalities for the in-person meetings, including on COVID protocols, is made available at the website of the Authority (see https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/ISA_26th_session_In_Person_Meetings_preliminary_modalities_Dec%202021.pdf).
4. It is also recalled that the President of the Assembly for the twenty-fifth session, Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, declared opening of the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly on 5 October 2020 (agenda item 1). Under silence procedure, the agenda of Assembly for the twenty-sixth session was adopted (see [ISBA/26/A/1](#), agenda item 2). Permanent Representative of France to the Authority, Denys Wibaux, was elected as President of the Assembly for the twenty-sixth session (agenda item 3), and Dominican Republic, Nauru, Nigeria and Poland elected as Vice-Presidents (agenda item 4). The following members have been appointed as members of the Credentials Committee for the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly: Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechia, Lesotho, Myanmar, South Africa, Spain and Sri Lanka (agenda item 5).

5. It is further recalled that under silence procedure, on 3 December 2020, acting in accordance with article 160, paragraph 2 (b), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Assembly re-elected Mr. Michael William Lodge (United Kingdom) as Secretary-General of the Authority for a four-year term from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024 (see [ISBA/26/A/16](#), agenda item 17). Under agenda item 18, the Assembly adopted a decision relating to the election to fill the vacancies on the Council of the Authority in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention (see [ISBA/26/A/20](#)). Under agenda item 20 “Other matters”, the Assembly adopted a decision to name the museum of the Authority in honour of Nii Allotey Odunton (see [ISBA/26/A/15](#)), and a decision concerning the extension of the terms of office of the current members of the Finance Committee by one year, such that they will expire on 31 December 2022 (see [ISBA/26/A/23](#)).

Opening of the in-person meeting (agenda item 1)

6. At the opening of the in-person meeting of the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly, on 13 December 2021, the President of the Assembly, H.E. Denys Wibaux, will present to the Assembly for consideration a draft decision concerning the decisions adopted under silence procedure in 2020 and 2021 (see [ISBA/26/A/L.4](#)).

Consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly (agenda item 6)

7. The Assembly will be invited to consider two requests for observer status: one is from Sasakawa Peace Foundation (see [ISBA/26/A/INF/1](#)) and the other from OceanCare (see [ISBA/26/A/INF/2](#)). The Assembly will consider the two applications in accordance rule 82, paragraph 1 (e) of the Rules of procedure of the Assembly and the Guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority, which was adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session (see [ISBA/25/A/16](#), annex).

Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee, in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, 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 (“1994 Agreement”) (agenda item 7)

8. Section 9, paragraph 5 of the annex to the 1994 Agreement provides that in the event of death, incapacity or resignation of a member of the Finance Committee prior to the expiration of the term of office, the Assembly shall elect for the remainder of the term a member from the same geographical region or group of States.

9. In this connection, the Assembly is invited to take note that Reinaldo Storani (Brazil) passed away on 2 May 2021; Nyan Lin Aung (Myanmar) resigned on 30 March 2021; and Eleanor Petch (United Kingdom) resigned on 30 September 2021. Accordingly, the Assembly will be invited to fill the vacancies on the Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5 of the annex to the 1994 Agreement.

Statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the twenty-sixth session (agenda item 8)

10. As a standing item, the President of the Council, Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam (Bangladesh), will make an oral report to the Assembly on the work of the Council during the twenty-

sixth session, include Part I held from 17 to 21 February 2020 (see [ISBA/26/C/13](#)) and Part II from 6 to 10 December 2021. The Assembly will be invited to take note of the report.

Annual report of the Secretary-General under article 166, Paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (agenda item 9)

11. Pursuant to article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nation on the Law of the Sea, the Secretary-General will make a report to the Assembly (see [ISBA/26/A/2](#), and [ISBA/26/A/Add.1](#) to be issued). In this connection, please note that a fully illustrated and separate report of the Secretary-General, entitled “Achieving the sustainable use of deep-sea minerals for the benefit of humankind”, has been issued (available at: https://isa.org.im/files/documents/ISA_Annual_Report_2020_ENG_1.pdf), which covers all the activities carried out by the Authority between July 2019 and May 2020 and should be read in conjunction with the report.

12. The Assembly will be invited to take note of the report and conduct general debate.

13. In addition, under this agenda item, it is noted that on 3 December 2020, the members of the Assembly were invited to take note of a report of the Secretary-General on Implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development (See [ISBA/26/A/7](#)) with a view to adopting a decision as annexed to the report, and in this connection, the members were also invited to submit written statements. On 17 December 2020, the Assembly adopted a decision relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development (see [ISBA/26/A/18](#)).

Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and high-level action plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019-2023 (agenda item 10)

14. The Assembly will be invited to take note of the Report on the implementation by the Council of the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 ([ISBA/26/A/8-ISBA/26/C/23](#)) and Report on the implementation by the Assembly of the strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023 (see [ISBA/26/A/9](#)).

Tribute to the memory of the late Satya N. Nandan (agenda item 11)

15. The Assembly will be invited to observe one minute of silence in memory of the late Satya N. Nandan, the first Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, who passed away on 26 February 2020.

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the International Seabed Authority to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (agenda item 12)

16. It is recalled that on 3 December 2020, the members of the Assembly were invited to consider for adoption the action plan of the Authority in support of United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ([ISBA/26/A/4](#)), and in this connection, the members were also invited to submit written statements. On 17 December 2020, the Assembly adopted a decision relating to the action plan of the Authority in support of United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ([ISBA/26/A/17](#)).

17. At the December meeting, under this agenda item, the Assembly will be further invited to consider a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Authority

in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ([ISBA/26/A/25](#) to be issued).

Report and Recommendations of the Finance Committee (agenda item 13)

18. On 31 December 2020, taking into account the recommendations of the Council (see [ISBA/26/C/26](#)), the Assembly adopted, under silence procedure, a decision relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2021-2022 (see [ISBA/26/A/19](#)).

19. At the forthcoming December meetings, the Assembly will be invited to review the remaining matters raised in the report of the Finance Committee (see [ISBA/26/A/10-ISBA/26/C/21](#)), and additionally, consider a report of the Finance Committee on the work carried out during the meetings of the Committee in 2021 (see [ISBA/26/A/10/Add.1-ISBA/26/C/21/Add.1](#) to be issued). Taking into account the recommendations of the Council relating to the financial and budgetary matters of the Authority, the Assembly will be invited to adopt a decision relating to these matters.

20. Under this agenda item, the Assembly will be further invited to consider a report of the Finance Committee concerning Development of rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area pursuant to section 9, paragraph 7 (f), 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 (see [ISBA/26/A/24-ISBA/26/C/39](#)). The Assembly will be invited to consider the report and, if any, recommendations thereon by the Council.

Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 16)

21. The Credentials Committee will examine the credentials of representatives of members and report to the Assembly without delay. A meeting of the Credentials Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 2:00-2:45pm.

Dates of the next session of the Assembly (agenda item 19)

22. At the end of the session, the dates of the 27th session of the Assembly will be announced.

Other Matters (agenda item 20)

23. The Secretary-General will announce the winner of the Third Edition of the Secretary-General Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research on 13 December 2021.

24. The Assembly may consider other matters under agenda item 20.

14 October 2021
