

**Joint letter by the President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority and by the President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority for the twenty-sixth session**

19 May 2021

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

We wish to refer to our joint letter of 22 January 2021, in which we informed the members of the Authority and observers to the Authority that the twenty-sixth session of the Authority would carry over to 2021, including the face-to-face meetings.

As you may have noted, the secretariat of the Authority has announced on the Authority's website the schedule of the face-to-face meetings of the Council (19-23 July 2021) and of the Assembly (26-30 July 2021).

Nevertheless, after consultation with members of our respective bureaus, we have come to the conclusion that, given the current situation, the conditions are still not met to allow for the convening of face-to-face meetings of the Council and of the Assembly as scheduled in July 2021. Specifically, we note that uncertainty remains as to travel restrictions, including transit through key global hubs.

In light of this, we wish to inform the members of the Authority and observers to the Authority that the face-to-face meetings of the Council and of the Assembly will need to be deferred to a later date in 2021.

We will continue to monitor the situation in collaboration with the Secretary-General and our respective bureaus so as to identify a suitable date for the meetings later in the year.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.



Ambassador Denys Wibaux  
President of the Assembly of the  
International Seabed Authority



Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam  
President of the Council of the  
International Seabed Authority