



**President of the Council of
the International Seabed Authority**

10 November 2020

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the letter dated 9 November 2020 from the President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority and from myself in which we jointly announced the impossibility of holding in-person meetings of the Assembly and of the Council at the headquarters of the Authority in December 2020.

I also wish to refer to my letters 20 and 23 October 2020 and to the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority of 23 October 2020 concerning the organization of work.

In light of the three identified time-sensitive items for consideration by the Council before the end of 2020, namely the budget of the International Seabed Authority, the candidate list for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, and the application for approval of a plan of work for exploration of polymetallic nodules, I propose, after consultations with the bureau and with the President of the Assembly, that the Council proceed as follows, having in mind the sequential decision-making procedures and the need to give sufficient time for the Assembly to dispose of its organization of work as well.

First, I propose that, under agenda item 20, the Council consider the candidate list for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority to recommend to the Assembly pursuant to article 162 (2) (b) of the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea. For that purpose, on 16 November 2020, I will circulate a letter to: (i) table a draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority concerning the candidate for the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and (ii) propose that the draft decision be deemed adopted if no objections are received by 5 pm Jamaica time on 19 November 2020.

Secondly, I propose that the Council consider agenda items relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority and scale of assessed contributions to the budget, on the basis of the recommendations of the Finance Committee on the revised budget proposed by the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISBA/26/A/5/Add.1-ISBA/26/C/18/Add.1). To allow for an exchange of views from Members of the Council, I propose to organize, with the assistance of the secretariat, a webinar on 23 November 2020, at which the Chair of the Finance Committee will present to the Members of the Council the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee, including its annexed draft decision relating to the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts (ISBA/26/A/10-ISBA/26/C/21, annex I). Members of the Council will have an opportunity to send written statements to me during the week 23-27 November 2020. On 30

