



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND FOREIGN TRADE  
JAMAICA**

12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Excellencies,

Further to my letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 circulating a draft decision enabling the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority to adopt decisions by silence procedure, which was placed under the silence procedure by 17:00 on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Jamaica time), I wish to inform you that the silence has been broken by one member State with a proposed amendment to delete "matters of a procedural nature, such as" in the operative paragraph 2 of the draft decision.

Following consultation with the delegation concerned and within the Bureau, I wish to further inform you that I am circulating attached herewith a revised draft decision on the "Procedure for adoption of decisions by the Assembly during the 26<sup>th</sup> Session owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic".

The draft decision attached to this letter will be deemed to be adopted by the Twenty-sixth Session of the Assembly if no objections are received by the secretariat of the Authority by 17:00 on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Jamaica time). Objections to the draft decision should be transmitted in a letter or a Note Verbale addressed to the President of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Assembly. Such correspondence should be sent in an email to [secretary-general@isa.org.jm](mailto:secretary-general@isa.org.jm) (cc to: [ola@isa.org.jm](mailto:ola@isa.org.jm)).

The regional groups are also reminded to complete their consultation and submit the required nominations concerning the Vice-Presidents and members of the Credentials Committee of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Authority as expeditiously as possible.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kamina Johnson Smith'.

Kamina Johnson Smith  
President of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Assembly  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

**Members of the International Seabed Authority**

Annex

**Draft decision on the Procedure for adoption of decisions by the Assembly during the Twenty-sixth Session of the International Seabed Authority owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic**

*The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Noting with concern* the situation related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the guidance provided by the World Health Organization Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of COVID-19<sup>1</sup> aimed at containing risks of transmission;

*Authorizes* the President of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Assembly and the President of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Assembly to circulate draft decisions of the Assembly under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours regarding the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Assembly, the appointment of the Credentials Committee, the adoption of the agenda and the organization of work;

*Decides* that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the Twenty-sixth Session of the Assembly shall take note of the decision at its first face-to-face meeting convened as soon as the circumstances allow, and that this decision on the procedure for adoption of decisions by the Assembly shall be in effect until the first face-to-face meeting of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Assembly;

*Decides* further that during the Twenty-sixth Session of the Assembly, the Credentials Committee may apply *mutatis mutandis* the procedure set out above.

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<sup>1</sup> Interim guidance, 29 May 2020, available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/10665-332235> .