



**REPRÉSENTATION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS DE
L'AUTORITÉ INTERNATIONALE
DES FONDS MARINS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

12 January 2021

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to my letter dated 7 January 2021 concerning election to fill the vacancies on the Council of the International Seabed Authority in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In this connection, I wish further to refer to my letters of 30 November and 7, 14 December 2020 as well as 7 January 2021, in which I urged the Group of Western European and Other States ("WEOG") to continue their consultations and come to a consensus on the nomination of candidates for Group E of the Council as soon as possible.

Keeping in mind that nineteen vacancies in total on the Council are still not filled and there are pending items for the Council to consider under the twenty-sixth session and in response to representations by some member States in the past days, I will allow three more days for the WEOG to continue their consultations on nomination of candidates to fill the vacancies in the Group E of the Council, with a view to exhausting all efforts to achieve consensus. Therefore, I urge the members concerned to compromise by finding a way forward.

By 5:00pm on Friday 15 January 2021 (Jamaica time), I will assess as to whether all efforts to achieve consensus have been exhausted and put forward a proposal early next week.

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

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

To: All members of the International Seabed Authority