



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

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

21 June 2021

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the joint letter from the President of the Council and myself dated 19 May 2021, in which it is informed that the face-to-face meetings of the Council and of the Assembly will be deferred to a later date in 2021.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, the members of the Finance Committee shall hold office for a term of five years. They shall be elected by the Assembly from among the candidates nominated by the Members of the Authority.

The five-year terms of office of the current members of the Finance Committee will expire on 31 December 2021.

On 30 March 2021, the Council decided, in its decision as contained in ISBA/26/C/30, to extend the terms of office of the current members of the Legal and Technical Commission by one year, such that they will expire on 31 December 2022. The Council stressed that the decision was made on an exceptional basis, owing to the unprecedented circumstances arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and was without prejudice to article 163 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In view of the uncertainty as to the dates for the face-to-face meetings of the Assembly and the usual period of time required for nomination and circulation process for the election of the membership of the Finance Committee, and with a view to ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Finance Committee in fulfilling its functions, it is my view and that of the members of the Bureau that it is equally necessary for the Assembly to adopt the same exceptional measure, by extending by one year the terms of office of the current members of the Finance Committee, such that they will expire on 31 December 2022, with the understanding that this measure is taken without prejudice to section 9 of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and it does not constitute a precedent for the Finance Committee in future elections.

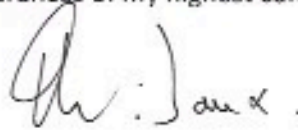
I therefore propose that the Assembly, under agenda item 20 "other matters", consider and adopt a draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning the extension

of the terms of office of the current members of the Finance Committee (see ISBA/26/A/CRP.5 as annexed).

Accordingly, the draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning the extension of the terms of office of the current members of the Finance Committee (ISBA/26/A/CRP.5) is placed under the silence procedure until 5:00pm on Thursday, 24 June 2021 (Jamaica time).

The draft decision will be deemed adopted by the Assembly if no objections are received by 5:00pm on Thursday, 24 June 2021 (Jamaica time). Any objection to the draft decision should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale addressed to the President of the Assembly, with a clear indication of an objection being raised. Such correspondence should be sent by an email to secretary-general@isa.org.jm (cc to assembly@isa.org.jm).

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