



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

26 May 2021

Excellencies,

Following the joint letter dated 19 May 2021 from the President of the Assembly and myself, announcing the deferral of the face-to-face meetings of the Council as initially scheduled for July 2021, I wish to bring to your attention an item that the Council needs to consider during its next face-to-face meetings later this year. This item relates to the consideration of seven applications for extension of contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area.

As you may recall, this item is not yet on the agenda of the Council for the twenty-sixth session (ISBA/26/C/1) adopted in 2020. Recently, the Legal and Technical Commission has adopted recommendations on seven applications for extension of contracts for exploration. The relevant documentation is being processed and will be available in the six languages of the Authority shortly. As you know, this is a matter that requires consideration by the Council after consideration of the Legal and Technical Commission in an expeditious manner, according to the Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (ISBA/21/C/19*).

In light of these circumstances and after consultation with the Bureau, I am convinced that the agenda of the Council needs to be revised for the purpose of adding this new agenda item 10 bis for consideration at the next face-to-face meetings of the Council later in 2021.

Therefore, I propose that the enclosed "Revised draft agenda of the Council" as contained in ISBA/26/C/L.6 (which is also available in the six official languages of the Authority on its website), be deemed adopted if no objection is received by 5 pm Jamaica time on 31 May 2021. Objections to the revised draft agenda of the Council should be done in a letter or a note verbale addressed to the President of the Council. Such correspondence should be sent in an email to Council2020@isa.org.jm (cc: ola@isa.org.jm).

If I hear no objection to the above proposal by 5 pm Jamaica time on 31 May 2021, I will circulate the outcome of the silence procedure by a letter addressed to the Members of the Council.

Please remain assured that my intent is that this will be the last decision the Council will need to adopt under the silence procedure before its next face-to-face meetings later in 2021.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Md. Khurshed Alam', written in a cursive style.

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