

## Note on public information on plans of work for exploration

The three sets of Exploration Regulations (<https://isa.org.jm/mining-code/regulations>), including the standard clauses for exploration contracts, contain several provisions on confidentiality of data and information and procedures to ensure confidentiality.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Council requested the Secretary-General to explore with contractors the possibility of making contracts for exploration and their associated plans of work for exploration publicly available, taking into account the confidentiality obligations under such contracts, and to report to the Council at its twenty-fifth session in 2019 (ISBA/24/C/8 para.16). The Secretary-General held consultations with all contractors, including in the context of the 2018 and 2019 annual meetings with contractors held in Warsaw, Poland, and Changsha, China respectively, and continued to engage with them over several months.

As an outcome, a standardised template for public reporting of contract information was considered as a practical measure for responding to the immediate concerns of the Council without prejudice to any determination under the relevant regulations as to the confidentiality or otherwise of any information contained in the contracts for exploration, their schedules and annexes. It was further acknowledged that contractors may periodically request that the published content provided in such templates be updated to reflect any agreed changes to planned activities and therefore keep it current. The main sections of the template are as follows:

- Contract information (type of resource, location, contract area (km<sup>2</sup>))
- Coordinates and illustrative chart of the exploration area
- Plan of work
- Programme of activities and exploration expenditure
- Training programme
- Standard clauses.

The information provided by the contractors is published on the ISA website as part of the information on each contract.

The Secretary-General has provided updates on the progress of submission by the contractors of the completed templates in his regular reports to the Council (ISBA/26/C/3 and ISBA/26/C/3/Add.1).

[End]