



# Assembly

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## Twenty-second session

Kingston, Jamaica

11-22 July 2016

### **Periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

1. Article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides that, every five years from the entry into force of the Convention, the Assembly is to undertake a general and systematic review of the manner in which the international regime of the Area established in the Convention has operated in practice. In the light of the review the Assembly may take, or recommend that other organs take, measures in accordance with the provisions and procedures of part IX of the Convention and the annexes relating thereto that will lead to the improvement of the operation of the regime.

2. In 2015, at the twenty-first session of the International Seabed Authority, the Assembly decided, among other things, to undertake the above-mentioned review (see [ISBA/21/A/9/Rev.1](#)). It also decided that the review would be carried out under the oversight of a review committee comprising the President and the Bureau of the Assembly and the President of the Council, with the current President of the Assembly remaining a member of the committee until the completion of the review, and that the Chairs of the regional groups might also participate as observers. The Assembly further decided that the review would be conducted by consultants appointed by the committee, based on a shortlist of qualified consultants prepared by the Secretary-General according to the established procurement procedures of the Authority, and that the committee should meet the consultants and decide on the scope of the report before its drafting. The Assembly decided that the committee should monitor the progress of work and submit an interim report, including comments by the secretariat, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee, for consideration by the Assembly at its twenty-second session, in 2016. The final report, including any draft recommendations designed to improve the operation of the regime, would be submitted to the Assembly at its twenty-third session.



3. Accordingly, on 31 May 2016, the committee circulated to members and observers, through the Secretary-General, an interim report<sup>1</sup> prepared by the consultancy firm appointed by the committee to conduct the review. The report was accompanied by the committee's comments.<sup>2</sup>

4. The report is to be considered by the Assembly at the current session, together with any comments received from the secretariat, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee. Such comments, when received, will be made available to the Assembly.

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<sup>1</sup> Available from <http://bit.ly/1Ubtd3Q>.

<sup>2</sup> Available from <http://bit.ly/1O2DW4a>.