



## Council

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**Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer for extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer and the Authority**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,<sup>1</sup>*

*Recalling that, on 20 June 2001, the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the International Seabed Authority,*

*Noting that, on 16 December 2015, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received an application for a five-year extension of the contract,*

*Recalling 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,<sup>2</sup>*

*Recalling also 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,<sup>3</sup>*

*Considering the report and recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer for extension of the contract,*

*Noting that, in paragraph 14 of his report to the Council, the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission had summarized the modifications to the plans of work for exploration proposed by the applicants during the extension period,<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> See ISBA/22/C/16.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

<sup>3</sup> ISBA/21/C/19.

<sup>4</sup> See ISBA/22/C/17.



*Noting also* paragraph 16 of the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission,

1. *Decides* to approve the application for extension of the contract;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 20 June 2016, by signature of an agreement in the form set out in appendix II to the annex to the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority mentioned above;<sup>3</sup>
3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next session on the status of the extension agreement, including details of the modifications to the plans of work for exploration;
4. *Invites* the applicant to be ready to proceed to exploitation at the end of the five-year extension period.

219th meeting  
18 July 2016

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