

**Council**

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Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application by Yuzhmorgeologiya for extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between Yuzhmorgeologiya and the Authority

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Recalling that, on 29 March 2001, Yuzhmorgeologiya entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the Authority,

Noting that, on 28 September 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 1982,¹

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 1982,²

Considering the report and recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by Yuzhmorgeologiya for extension of the contract,³

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 29 March 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 as mentioned above.²*

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

² ISBA/21/C/19.

³ ISBA/22/C/12.

