

# INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

---

## Assembly



Distr.  
GENERAL

ISBA/6/A/19  
14 July 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY  
Resumed sixth session  
Kingston, Jamaica  
3-14 July 2000

### STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY AT THE RESUMED SIXTH SESSION

1. The second part of the sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 3 to 14 July 2000.

#### Election to fill vacancies on the Finance Committee

2. At the 74th meeting, on 5 July 2000, Mr Peter Döllekes (Germany), Mr Albert Hoffmann (South Africa) and Ms Juliet Semambo Kalema (Uganda) were elected to fill the vacancies on the Finance Committee left by the resignations of Mr Jobst Holborn (Germany), Mr Craig Daniell (South Africa) and Mr David Etuket (Uganda), respectively, for the remainder of their five-year terms of office, expiring on 31 December 2001.

#### Annual report of the Secretary-General

3. At the 74th meeting, on 5 July 2000, the Secretary-General introduced his fourth annual report (ISBA/6/A/9), as required by article 166, paragraph 4, of the Convention. The Secretary-General noted that included in the report was information to assist the Assembly in undertaking a review of the manner in which the international regime for the Area has operated in practice, as required by article 154 of the Convention.

4. Following the presentation by the Secretary-General, statements were made by the delegations of Cameroon, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Fiji, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and Tonga and by the observer delegation of the United States of America.

5. The delegations that spoke expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive nature of the report. Several delegations emphasized the importance for all States Parties to the Convention that had

not already done so to take the necessary steps to become parties to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention. In addition, delegations stressed the need for broader support for the work of the Authority, particularly in terms of attendance at meetings.

6. Several delegations underlined the importance and value of the workshops convened by the Authority, noting that such workshops helped to promote better understanding of the various issues associated with deep seabed exploration. The representatives of a number of developing countries requested that consideration be given to making the workshops more accessible to them, including by publishing the proceedings of the workshops on the Authority's web site as well as by giving consideration to means of ensuring broader participation by scientists from developing countries.

7. In response to a request for clarification, the Secretary-General reminded the Assembly that the Authority was not connected in any way whatsoever with the work of the International Oceans Institute, a non-governmental organization, nor did the Authority sponsor or endorse any of the seminars conducted by that organization. The Secretary-General stated that, to avoid any confusion in the future, he would write to the International Oceans Institute requesting it to ensure that it did not misrepresent the Authority or implicate the Authority in its work.

8. With respect to the periodic review of the regime contained in Part XI of the Convention and the Agreement, the Assembly concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary-General, contained in his report, that in the light of the very short experience that the Authority has had in implementing the regime, it would be premature for the Assembly to take any measures at this time.

#### Report of the Credentials Committee

9. The Credentials Committee met on 11 July 2000. The report of the Committee is contained in document ISBA/6/A/16. At the 76th plenary meeting, on 13 July 2000, the Assembly adopted the report of the Credentials Committee, noting that further communications had been received from three States. The decision of the Assembly relating to credentials is contained in document ISBA/6/A/17.

#### Budget of the Authority for 2000

10. The Assembly considered the proposed budget for the Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/6/A/7-ISBA/6/C/4). In reviewing the proposed budget the Assembly took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in its report of 10 July 2000 (ISBA/6/A/13-ISBA/6/C/6) and the decision and recommendations of the Council relating to the budget of the Authority (ISBA/6/C/7). The Assembly adopted the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002 in the sum of US\$10,506,400.

#### Appointment of auditors

11. In accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee (ISBA/6/A/13-ISBA/6/C/6), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to appoint KPMG Peat Marwick to audit the Authority for 2000, without prejudice to future appointments.

#### Assessment of contributions of members of the Authority

12. In accordance with the recommendation of the Council, the Assembly decided to authorize the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessment for the financial period 2001 to 2002 based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for 2000 and 2001 respectively, as adjusted by the Authority.

13. The decision of the Assembly relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002 and related matters is contained in document ISBA/6/A/15.

#### Election to fill vacancies on the Council

14. At its 76th meeting, on 13 July 2000, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the Assembly elected the following as members of the Council for a term of four years each, subject to the understandings reached in the interest and regional groups and set out in document ISBA/6/A/14.

Group A: Japan, United Kingdom

Group B: China, India

Group C: Portugal, South Africa

Group D: Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Sudan

Group E: Algeria, Argentina, Czech Republic, Gabon, Guyana, Malta, Namibia, Poland, Senegal, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago.

#### Draft regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area

15. At its 76th meeting, on 13 July 2000, the Assembly took note of the decision of the Council to adopt and apply provisionally, pending approval by the Assembly, the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area (ISBA/6/C/12). The Assembly approved the regulations. The decision of the Assembly relating to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area is contained in document ISBA/6/A/18.

#### Next meeting of the Assembly

16. The President noted that, at its next meeting, the Assembly would need to elect a new Finance Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement. In order to facilitate the election, the President requested States Parties to submit nominations, with detailed curricula vitae, at least

two months in advance of the next meeting of the Assembly, so that the secretariat may circulate the nominations and curricula vitae to all members of the Authority.

17. The next meeting of the Assembly will be held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 2 to 13 July 2001. It was noted that the Asian Group would, in due course, nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Assembly in 2001, and the Eastern European Group would nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Council in 2001.

-----