International Seabed Authority

Press Release

Assembly (AM)

SB/13/22

20 July 2007

SEABED ASSEMBLY ENDS 2007 SESSION:
Approves Credentials Committee report; Sets date for 14th Session in May 2008

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority ended its 2007 session in Kingston this morning by adopting the report of the Credentials Committee and setting 26 May – 6 June, 2008 as the date for the 14th Session in the Jamaican capital.

The Credentials Committee Report (ISBA/13/A/4) was presented by its Chairman, Dr. Dean Bialek (Australia). The Committee accepted the credentials of the 55 States and the European Community presented at the July session. The Chairman noted that Haiti had presented its credentials after the Committee had concluded its work, raising the number of States represented to 56.

Members of the Committee, elected by the Assembly in accordance with rule 24 of its rules of procedure, also included China, Guyana, Japan, Kenya, Malta, Panama, Poland and South Africa.

In other matters, the Assembly noted the statement (ISBA/13/A/L.3) of the President, Chief Olufolajimi Modupe Akintola (Nigeria), which highlighted the work of the supreme body of the Authority at its 13th session.

The statement noted the main points in the annual report of the Secretary-General including the substantive work of the Authority proposed for the 2008-2010 period. Such work would focus on the scientific and technical programme necessary to carry out its functions under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement, and in particular to promote a better understanding of the potential environmental impact of deep seabed mining.

The Secretary-General, Satya N. Nandan indicated that a report of the president of the Council of the Authority and a revised version of the draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area were available to members of the Assembly.

Mr. Nandan, and Mr. Herman Portocarero, the representative of Belgium, expressed appreciation to the President of the Assembly for 2007, Chief Olufolajimi Modupe Akintola, who is Nigeria’s High Commissioner to Jamaica as well as Permanent Representative to the Authority, and is expected to end her tour in Jamaica shortly.

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