SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF SEABED AUTHORITY CONCLUDES IN KINGSTON
Assembly elects members to Finance Committee; decides to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of
Next (18th) session scheduled for 16 to 27 July 2012

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority ended its seventeenth session in Kingston
today after adopting the report of the Credentials Committee, and the recommendations of the Council
relating to financial and budgetary matters.

Also at the meeting, fifteen candidates were elected, by consensus, as members of the Finance
Committee to serve for the next five years (2012-2016).

Secretary-General, Nii Allotey Odunton (Ghana) announced that the eighteenth session of the
Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was scheduled for 16 to 27 July 2012.

In other matters, the Assembly adopted, with a minor amendment, a draft decision proposed by
the Group of 77 and China, relating to the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for

Argentina, introducing the draft decision, pointed to the historic significance of the instrument
which brought the Authority into existence. Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago expressed pride as
Caribbean States to have been involved since the very early days in the life of the Convention and paid
tribute to the pioneers through whose dedication, it had become a reality. They were supported by Brazil,
Japan, Mexico, Uganda, and Vietnam.

The Assembly took note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the
Hamburg-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on responsibilities and obligations of States
sponsoring persons or entities with respect to activities in the Area. This followed a debate on a draft
decision which was proposed by Ghana, the Netherlands, South Africa and Nigeria.
It reads as follows:

The Assembly

Welcomes the advisory opinion delivered on 1 February 2011 by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea at the request of the Council.

Brazil suggested replacing the word “welcomes” with the phrase “takes note, with appreciation” to reflect the wording of the Council’s decision on the matter. China, Chile, Germany, and India supported the amendment. However, other delegations such as Argentina, Jamaica and the Netherlands saw no reason for the change, which they felt would “weaken” the decision. The Assembly adjourned briefly to allow delegations to redraft an acceptable text, which now reads:

“Draft Decision on the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area.”

The Assembly:

1. Welcomes the decision by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal of the Law on the Sea to respond to the request of the Council as agreed on 6 May 2010;

2. Takes note, with appreciation, of the advisory opinion delivered on 1 February 2011 by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea at the request of the Council.

Finance Committee

The new membership of the Finance Committee will therefore be as follows (an asterisk denotes a re-elected member):

*Zaw Minn Aung (Myanmar), Frida Maria Armas-Pfirter (Argentina) Aleksey P. Bakanov (Russian Federation), *Pradip K. Choudhary (India), *Trecia Elliott (Jamaica), Francesca Graziani (Italy), Linggawaty Hakim (Indonesia), *Pavel Kavina (Czech Republic), Duncan M. Laki (Uganda), *Olav Myklebust (Norway), Serge Segura (France), Reinaldo Storani (Brazil), *Chris Whomersley (United Kingdom), David C.M. Wilkens (Germany), *Shinichi Yamanaka (Japan), Jinsong Yao (China).

Members leaving the Committee at the end of their current term are:
Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia); Domenico Da Empoli (Italy); Michael Hacklethal (Germany); Juliet Semambo Kalema (Uganda); Jean-Pierre Levy (France); Wang Quanling (China); Denis Fontes De Souza Pinto (Brazil); Fidorovna Lubov Revyakina (Russian Federation).

In other action, the Assembly approved the report of the Credentials Committee (ISBA/17/A/6) which was presented by its Chair, Jacqueline Moseti (Kenya). She reported that of the Authority’s 162 members, the credentials of 66 had been received by the Secretariat. At the seventeenth session, the Credentials Committee comprised Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Kenya Namibia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia.

In closing the session, Assembly President Peter Thomson (Fiji) commended the members on their constructive work during the 17th session of the Authority.

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