International Seabed Authority

Press Release

Eighteenth Session
Kingston, Jamaica
16 - 27 July 2012

Assembly (AM) SB/18/16
27 July 2012

SEABED ASSEMBLY ENDS PRODUCTIVE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF AUTHORITY

Elects Secretary-General; approves new Crusts regulations; adopts 2013-14 budget; elects 20 members to Council

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concluded its eighteenth session this afternoon after adopting the budget and a scale of assessment for the 2013-14 financial period, approving the Regulations on cobalt-rich crusts, and deciding to elect Mr. Nii Odunton as Secretary-General for a second four-year term.

In other actions before adjourning, the Assembly renewed half of the membership of the 36-member Council for a four-year term from 2013 through to 2016.

The Assembly decided to hold its nineteenth session in Kingston 15 – 26 July 2013, with the Legal and Technical Commission meeting the week before.

The Assembly adopted the recommendations of the Council relating to financial and budgetary matters (ISBA/18/A/L.2), taking note of statement by Belgium in which it opposed any increase to the budget at this time.

Secretary-General election

Regional group Chairmen took the floor to voice support for the election of Secretary-General Odunton for a second term in office. Germany, speaking on behalf of the Western European and Others Group, expressed his group’s “unequivocal continued support” for Mr. Odunton. The Russian Federation (Eastern European Group) spoke of the great responsibilities to be undertaken in the years ahead and declared him to be “the best guarantor of the successful discharge of those responsibilities.”

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China, speaking for the Asian Group, said that based on the achievements of the last four years, it was confident that the work of the Authority would continue to progress under Mr. Odunton’s guidance.

On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Brazil expressed firm support for Mr. Odunton’s re-election and said that his group was convinced members would see “a re-invigorated Authority under his second watch.”

Nigeria said the Secretary-General had skillfully piloted the work of the Authority over the last few years and his group was satisfied that “this son of Africa will do us proud.”

In his response, the Secretary-General thanked the members for the confidence shown in him by re-electing him for a second term. He said “we are embarking on an exciting phase of our trip….together the Authority and our contractors will arrive at our destination with flying colours.”

**Election to Council**

The Assembly elected 20 new members of the Council for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016. The elected members are:

- **Group A:** China, Japan
- **Group B:** India
- **Group C:** Canada, South Africa
- **Group D:** Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda
- **Group E:** Argentina, Czech Republic, Guyana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom

Spain is elected for a four-year term with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2014; the United Kingdom will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2015; and after serving for three years, The Netherlands will relinquish its seat to Norway for the last remaining year of its term.

In other action, the Assembly approved the report of the Credentials Committee (ISBA/18 A/8), which was presented by its Chair, Andrei Todorov (Russian Federation). He reported that of the Authority’s 162 members, the credentials of 66 had been received by the secretariat. At the eighteenth session, the Credentials Committee comprised Argentina, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Japan, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Senegal and the United Kingdom.

Ambassador Raymond Wolfe (Jamaica) congratulated the Assembly President Mr. Milan J.N. Meetarbhan (Mauritius) for his solid stewardship of the session. He said that there was great satisfaction with the manner in which meetings were held and believed “substantive progress” was made.

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