



SELECTED DECISIONS AND DOCUMENTS OF THE EIGHTH SESSION

Office of Legal Affairs
International Seabed Authority
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica
Tel: (876) 922 91 05
Fax: (876) 967 74 87
<http://www.isa.org.jm>

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ISBA/8/A/1 and Corr. 1 Summary presentations on polymetallic sulphides deposits and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts

Date: 9 May 2002

I. MARINE MINERALS AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA¹

1. A scientific revolution in our understanding of the way the Earth works occurred in the 1970s and early 1980s which significantly expanded our knowledge of marine minerals while the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was being formulated. The scientific revolution entailed a major change in viewing the ocean basins and continents. Before the scientific revolution, the ocean basins were viewed as passive containers for the oceans. The continents and ocean basins were viewed as permanent features that had remained in their present positions through most of Earth's history. The marine mineral provisions of the Convention were written in terms of this old view, which only recognized those marine mineral deposits that had been derived from erosion of land and carried into the ocean in particulate or dissolved form by rivers. These minerals comprised heavy metal deposits (tin, gold, etc.) and gemstones (especially diamonds) deposited in sediments on continental margins, and manganese nodules precipitated on the floor of the deep ocean from metals dissolved in seawater.

2. The scientific revolution revealed that the ocean basins are dynamic features that open and close on a time scale of millions of years, with concomitant movement of the land areas known as continental drift. The scientific revolution recognized the ocean basins as sources of types of mineral deposits in addition to those previously known. These newly recognized types of marine mineral resources include polymetallic sulphides containing copper, zinc, silver and gold in varying amounts. Polymetallic sulphide deposits are concentrated over thousands of years by seafloor hot springs at sites along an active global submerged volcanic mountain range that extends through all the ocean basins of the world. Polymetallic sulphide deposits also occur at sites associated with volcanic island chains such as those along the western boundary of the Pacific Ocean. Another newly recognized type of marine mineral resource is cobalt-rich iron-manganese crusts that are precipitated over millions of years on the submerged flanks of inactive underwater volcanoes from metals dissolved in seawater derived from input of metals by both rivers and seafloor hot springs.

3. The hot springs not only concentrate polymetallic sulphide deposits and disperse metals into the oceans that contribute to the accumulation of cobalt-rich iron-manganese crusts, but also provide chemical energy from the Earth's interior that is used by microbes for their growth. The microbes are at the base of the food chain of an ecosystem of life forms at the hot springs that is largely independent of the light energy that fuels the photosynthesis in plants at the base of the food chain on land. The microbes are proving important as the source of new compounds for industrial and medical applications, and also include primitive forms that may hold the key to the origin of life. A current challenge is to incorporate these new mineral resources into the Convention regime in a way that protects the valuable life forms that they host.

II. POLYMETALLIC MASSIVE SULPHIDE DEPOSITS AT THE MODERN SEAFLOOR AND THEIR RESOURCE POTENTIAL²

4. Since 1979, polymetallic massive sulphide deposits have been found at water depths up to 3,700 m in a variety of tectonic settings at the modern seafloor, including mid-ocean ridges, back-arc rifts and seamounts. Many of the sulphide deposits consist of a black smoker complex on top of a sulphide mound which commonly is underlain by a stockwork zone. It has been widely established that circulating seawater which is modified in a reaction zone close to a subaxial magma chamber is the principal carrier of metals and sulphur which are leached out of the oceanic basement. Precipitation of massive and stockwork sulphides at and beneath the seafloor takes place in response to mixing of the high-temperature (up to 400°C) metal-rich hydrothermal seawater fluid with ambient seawater. Polymetallic seafloor sulphide deposits can reach considerable size (up to 100 million tonnes) and often carry high concentrations of copper (chalcopyrite), zinc (sphalerite) and lead (galena) in addition to gold and silver. It has been clearly documented that the mineralogical and chemical composition of polymetallic massive sulphides at the basalt-dominated mid-ocean ridges differs from those at back-arc spreading centres which are associated with more felsic volcanic rocks (dacite, rhyolite).

5. The latter are more similar to major sulphide deposits that are being mined on land today but which were once formed at spreading centres of paleo-oceans. Extremely high concentrations of gold (up to 230 g/t with an average of 26 g/t for 40 samples analysed) have recently been found in a new type of seafloor mineral deposit located in the crater of an extinct volcano in the territorial waters of Papua New Guinea. The particular style of mineralization and alteration bears many similarities to so-called “epithermal gold deposits” so far only known on the continents. In addition to circulating seawater, magmatic fluids carrying high concentrations of gold appear to be a significant metal source and are likely responsible for the strong precious metal enrichment. This type of mineralization is most likely to exist in other arc-related environments of the world’s oceans. Due to the high concentration of base and precious metals, seafloor polymetallic sulphide deposits have recently attracted the interest of the international mining industry. The recovery of some of these deposits appears to be both economically and environmentally feasible due to certain advantages over land-based deposits and will likely become a reality within the present decade.

III. COBALT-RICH FERROMANGANESE CRUSTS: GEOLOGY, RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY³

6. Cobalt-rich iron-manganese crusts occur throughout the global ocean on seamounts, ridges and plateaux where currents have kept the rocks swept clean of sediments for millions of years. Crusts precipitate from cold ambient seawater onto rock substrates, forming pavements up to 250 mm thick. Crusts are important as a potential resource primarily for cobalt, but also for titanium, cerium, nickel, platinum, manganese, thallium, tellurium, tungsten, bismuth, zirconium and other metals. Crusts form at water depths of about 400-4,000 m, with the thickest and most cobalt-rich crusts occurring at depths of about 800-2,500 m. Gravity processes such as landslides, as well as sediment cover, submerged and emergent reefs, and currents control the distribution and thickness of crusts.

7. Crusts occur on a wide variety of substrate rocks, making it difficult to distinguish the crusts from the substrate using remotely sensed data, which is an important aspect in terms of developing exploration technologies. Fortunately, crusts can be distinguished from the substrates by their much higher levels of gamma radiation. The physical properties of crusts, such as high mean porosity (60 per cent) and extremely high mean surface area (300 m²/g), as well as their incredibly slow rates of growth (1-6 millimetres per million years), are instrumental in allowing for the adsorption of large quantities of economically important metals from seawater onto the crust surfaces.

8. Crusts are composed of the minerals vernadite (manganese oxide) and ferrosityte (iron oxide), with moderate amounts of carbonate fluorapatite (CFA) in thick crusts and minor amounts of quartz and feldspar in most crusts. Elements that commonly adsorbed on the vernadite include cobalt, nickel, zinc and thallium, and on the iron oxide, copper, lead, titanium, molybdenum, arsenic, vanadium, tungsten, zirconium, bismuth and tellurium.

9. Bulk crusts contain maximum cobalt contents of up to 1.7 per cent, nickel to 1.1 per cent, and platinum to 1.3 parts per million (ppm). Average cobalt contents of up to 0.5 to 1 per cent for large regions of the oceans make crusts the richest potential ore for cobalt that exists, onshore as well as offshore. Cobalt, nickel, titanium and platinum concentrations decrease, whereas silicon and aluminium increase in continental-margin crusts and in crusts with close proximity to West Pacific volcanic arcs. Vernadite-related elements decrease, whereas iron and copper increase with increasing water depth of crust occurrence. Cobalt, cerium, thallium, titanium, lead, tellurium and platinum are strongly concentrated in crusts over other metals because they are incorporated by oxidation reactions that produce more stable, less mobile compounds. Total rare-earth elements commonly vary between 0.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent and are derived from seawater along with other hydrogenetic elements, cobalt, manganese, nickel, etc. Cerium is a rare-earth element that is strongly enriched in crusts and has important economic potential.

10. The seamounts and ridges on which crusts grow obstruct the flow of oceanic water masses, thereby creating a wide array of seamount-generated currents of generally enhanced energy relative to flow away from the seamounts. The effects of these currents are strongest at the outer rim of the summit region of seamounts, the area where the thickest crusts are found. Those seamount-specific currents also enhance turbulent mixing and produce upwelling, which increases primary productivity. These physical processes affect seamount biological communities, which vary from seamount to seamount. Seamount communities are characterized by relatively low density and low diversity where the crusts are thickest and cobalt-rich. The make-up of the seamount communities is determined by current patterns, topography, bottom sediment and rock types and coverage, seamount size, water depth, and size

and magnitude of the oxygen-minimum zone. Environmental impact documents will require a much better understanding of seamount ecosystems and communities than currently exists.

11. About 40 research cruises have been dedicated to the study of cobalt-rich crusts, mainly by Germany, Japan, United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the Russia Federation, China and France. The estimate of 40 cruises does not include some cruises completed by the USSR (and later the Russia Federation) and China that are not available to the author. However, based on an estimated 42 research cruises from 1981 through 2001, it is suggested that minimum expenditures were about US\$ 32 million for ship and associated scientific operations related to fieldwork, and \$42 million for shore-based research, for a total investment of about \$74 million.

12. Research and development on the technology for mining crusts are only in their infancy. Detailed maps of crust deposits and a comprehensive understanding of small-scale seamount topography are not available, but are required to design the most appropriate mining strategies. Typical field operations for exploration have been to produce SeaBeam bathymetric maps and derivative back-scatter and slope-angle maps, along with seismic profiles, which are used together to select sampling sites. For reconnaissance work, 15 to 20 dredge hauls and cores are taken per seamount. Then video-camera surveys delineate crust, rock and sediment types and distributions, as well as crust thicknesses if possible. These exploration activities require the use of a large, well-equipped research vessel because of the large number of bottom acoustic beacons, the large towed equipment and the volume of samples collected. During advanced stages of exploration and site-specific surveys, it is suggested to use deep-towed side-scan sonar including swath bathymetry, and tethered remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) for mapping and delineation of small-scale topography. Extensive sampling of deposits can be accomplished by dredging, coring, using ROVs, and a device to take close-spaced samples that has not yet been developed. Gamma-radiation surveys will delineate crust thicknesses and the existence of crusts under thin blankets of sediment. Current-meter moorings will be required for an understanding of the seamount environment and biological sampling and surveys will be necessary.

13. Twelve criteria have been developed for exploration for and exploitation of crusts:

- (a) Regional criteria
 - (i) Large volcanic edifices shallower than 1,000-1,500 m;
 - (ii) Volcanic edifices older than 20 million years;
 - (iii) Volcanic structures not capped by large atolls or reefs;
 - (iv) Areas of strong and persistent bottom currents;
 - (v) A shallow and well-developed oxygen-minimum zone;
 - (vi) Areas isolated from input of abundant fluvial and eolian debris.
- (b) Site-specific criteria
 - (vii) Subdued small-scale topography;
 - (viii) Summit terraces, saddles and passes;
 - (ix) Slope stability;
 - (x) Absence of local volcanism;
 - (xi) Average cobalt contents ≥ 0.8 per cent;
 - (xii) Average crust thicknesses ≥ 40 mm.

14. Crust mining is technologically more difficult than manganese nodule mining. Recovery of nodules is relatively easy because they sit on a soft-sediment substrate, whereas crusts are weakly to strongly attached to substrate rock. For successful crust mining, it is essential to recover the crusts without collecting substrate rock, which would significantly dilute the ore grade. Five possible crust mining operations include fragmentation, crushing, lifting, pick-up and separation. The proposed method of crust recovery consists of a bottom-crawling vehicle attached to a surface-mining vessel by means of a hydraulic-pipe lift system and an electrical umbilical. The

mining machine provides its own propulsion and travels at a speed of about 20 cm/s. Material throughput for the base-case mining scenario is 1,000,000 t/y. That scenario allows 80 per cent fragmentation efficiency and 25 per cent dilution of crust with substrate as reasonable miner capabilities. Some new and innovative systems that have been suggested for crust mining include water-jet stripping of crusts from the substrate, in situ leaching techniques and sonic removal of crusts from substrates. These suggestions offer promise and need to be further developed.

15. The importance to the world economy of metals contained in crusts is reflected in their patterns of consumption. The primary uses of manganese, cobalt and nickel are in the manufacture of steel, to which they provide unique characteristics. Cobalt is also used in the electrical, communications, aerospace, and engine and tool manufacturing industries. Nickel is used additionally in chemical plants, petroleum refineries, electrical appliances and motor vehicles. Cobalt is produced as a by-product of copper mining and consequently the supply of cobalt is tied to the demand for copper. This is also true for tellurium, which is produced as a by-product of both copper and gold mining. This uncertainty in supply has caused industry to seek alternatives to cobalt and tellurium, resulting in only a modest growth in their markets over the past decade, and consequently relatively low prices. If substantial alternative sources of these metals are developed, there should be a greater incentive to reintroduce them in products and expanding markets.

16. It has recently been determined that crusts contain metals other than manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper and platinum that may offer additional incentives in recovery. For example, titanium has the highest value after cobalt, cerium has a greater value than nickel, zirconium is equivalent to nickel, and tellurium has nearly twice the value of copper. This analysis assumes that economic extractive metallurgy can be developed for each of those metals.

17. Based on grade, tonnage and oceanographic conditions, the central-equatorial Pacific region offers the best potential for crust mining, particularly the exclusive economic zone of Johnston Island (United States), the Marshall Islands and international waters in the Mid-Pacific Mountains, although the exclusive economic zone of French Polynesia, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia should also be considered.

18. Supplies of the many metals found in crusts are essential for maintaining the efficiency of modern industrial societies and in improving the standard of living in the twenty-first century. There is a growing recognition that cobalt-rich crusts are an important potential resource. Accordingly, it is necessary to fill the information gap concerning various aspects of crust mining through research, exploration and technology development.

IV. SULPHIDE MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION AND THE HYDROTHERMAL VENT FAUNA⁴

19. More than 500 new animal species have been described from deep-sea hydrothermal vents since their discovery in 1977. Deep-sea vents have a high scientific value because they contain a large number of endemic and unusual species and are refuges for close relatives of ancient forms of life. Because they are visually spectacular, extreme environments, vent ecosystems have generated widespread public interest and are a resource which can be used to inform the public about earth processes and the way in which scientists work. It is not currently possible to predict how rapidly vent sites may recover from mining operations. Some organisms will be directly killed by mining machinery, while others nearby risk smothering by material settling from plumes of particulate matter. Individuals surviving these perturbations would be subject to a radical change in habitat, and the exploited sites will have a lesser scientific and educational value. Long-lived vent fields that host the largest mineral deposits are likely to be the most ecologically stable and have the highest biodiversity. A concentration of mining activities at such sites could produce regional effects on biological processes and organism abundance, to the point where the survival of some species could become an issue.

20. The management or protection of all of the world's marine hydrothermal and seep sites is an unrealistic goal. Discussions should focus instead on the criteria for identifying sites for future protection that are of critical importance, or particularly sensitive to disturbance, because of their scientific or educational value or their significance for species survival.

steps to become parties to the Agreement. Those States are: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iraq, Kuwait, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sudan, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yemen. In accordance with repeated requests by the Assembly, the Secretary-General has circulated annually a note verbale to the States parties mentioned above, drawing their attention to the need to become party to the Agreement. The last such note was circulated on 10 January 2002, in which the Secretary-General drew the attention of the States parties concerned to the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Secretary-General for 2001 (ISBA/7/A/2) and to paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 56/12 of 28 November 2001, calling upon all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement.

III. SESSIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

5. The seventh session of the Authority was held from 2 to 13 July 2001. Peter Donigi (Papua New Guinea) was elected President of the Assembly for the seventh session. Tadeusz Bachleda-Curus (Poland) was elected President of the Council. During the seventh session, elections were held, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Agreement, for members of the Finance Committee and of the Legal and Technical Commission.

6. At its 79th meeting, on 10 July 2001, the Assembly elected the following as members of the Finance Committee for a five-year term commencing on 1 January 2002: Domenico Da Empoli (Italy), Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia), Peter Döllekes (Germany), Ivo Dreiseitl (Czech Republic), Aung Htoo (Myanmar), Boris G. Idrisov (Russian Federation), Tadanori Inomata (Japan), Liu Jian (China), Jean-Pierre Lévy (France), Juliet Kalema Semambo (Uganda), Joseph Samih Matta (Lebanon), Paul McKell (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Coy Roache (Jamaica), Narinder Singh (India) and Florentina Adenike Ukonga (Nigeria).

7. At its 72nd meeting, on 5 July 2001, the Council decided, in accordance with article 163, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to increase the size of the Legal and Technical Commission to 24 members, without prejudice to future elections and the claims of the regional groups and interest groups. On the same date, the Council elected the following 24 candidates as members of the Commission: Sami Ahmad Addam (Lebanon), Ferry Adhamhar (Indonesia), Shahid Amjad (Pakistan), Frida Maria Armas Pfirter (Argentina), Helmut Beiersdorf (Germany), Samuel Sonah Betah (Cameroon), Arne Bjørlykke (Norway), Baïdy Diène (Senegal), Galo Carrera Hurtado (Mexico), Walter de Sá Leitão (Brazil), Miguel Dos Santos Alberto Chissano (Mozambique), Ivan F. Gloumov (Russian Federation), Mohammed M. Goma (Egypt), Albert Hoffman (South Africa), Yuji Kajitani (Japan), Jung-Keuk Kang (Republic of Korea), Jean-Pierre Lenoble (France), Yuwei Li (China), Lindsay Murray Parson (United Kingdom), M. Ravindran (India), Giovanni Rosa (Italy), Alfred Thomas Simpson (Fiji), Rodrigo Miguel Urquiza Caroca (Chile) and Inge K. Zaamwani (Namibia).

8. The Council also received the report of the chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the seventh session and noted that, pursuant to regulation 38 of the Regulations for Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area, the Commission had issued a set of recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area.

IV. PROTOCOL ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

9. The Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority, adopted by the Assembly at its 54th meeting, on 26 March 1998, was opened for signature at Kingston on 26 August 1998. In accordance with its article 16, the Protocol remained open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 16 August 2000. As at that date, the Protocol had been signed by 28 members of the Authority: Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Malta, Namibia, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and Uruguay. As at 31 July 2002, the Protocol had been ratified by the Czech Republic, Egypt, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom. On 8 September 2000, Croatia acceded to the Protocol. The Protocol will enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit

of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession. It is hoped that States members of the Authority will give consideration to the early ratification of or accession to the Protocol.

V. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AUTHORITY

10. As at 31 July 2002, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Gabon, Germany, Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands and Trinidad and Tobago had established permanent missions to the Authority.

VI. RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

11. In its debate on the report of the Secretary-General during the seventh session, the Assembly took note of the long delay in completing a supplementary agreement concerning the headquarters of the Authority and urged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to make progress with regard to the supplementary agreement. Regrettably, despite the best efforts of the Secretariat, the Secretary-General has been unable to make significant progress in this regard.

12. As previously reported to the Assembly, it will be recalled that, in March 1998, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica had informed the Secretary-General by letter that the Government of Jamaica had decided to offer the building currently occupied by the Authority and known as Block 11 for the permanent use and occupation of the Authority as its headquarters. The Secretary-General informed the Assembly of the offer on 17 March 1998, noting that clarification would have to be obtained from the Government of Jamaica with respect to the terms and conditions of the offer and that a report on the financial and other implications of the offer for the Authority would be prepared as soon as relevant information was available. Of particular concern were the maintenance costs, the structural condition of the building, the condition of major equipment and the question of refurbishment.

13. The Secretary-General reported to the Assembly on the offer by the Government of Jamaica at the fifth session of the Authority, in August 1999. After consideration of the Secretary-General's report, the Finance Committee recommended to the Assembly that it accept the offer on the basis that the Authority would occupy only such space within the building as might be required. The Finance Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General should pursue negotiations with the host country, based on the most complete information available, in order to secure the best terms for the maintenance of the premises.

14. At its 67th meeting, on 25 August 1999, the Assembly approved the Agreement between the International Seabed Authority and the Government of Jamaica concerning the headquarters of the Authority and accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Jamaica for a long-term lease of the second floor and such other space as might be required in the building for the use and occupation by the Authority as its permanent headquarters. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to negotiate with the Government of Jamaica, pursuant to article 2 of the Headquarters Agreement, a supplementary agreement concerning the use and occupation of the permanent headquarters. At the 68th meeting of the Assembly, on 26 August 1999, in a formal ceremony, the Headquarters Agreement was signed by the Secretary-General, on behalf of the Authority, and by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica, the Hon. Seymour Mullings, on behalf of the Government of Jamaica.

15. In October 1999, the Secretary-General invited the Government of Jamaica to commence as soon as possible the negotiations on the supplementary agreement. In November 1999, the Government of Jamaica indicated that it was making the necessary internal arrangements for the internal transfer of the title to the proposed headquarters building. Consequently, it was not until 17 May 2000 that a preliminary round of discussions could take place between the Authority and the Government. At that meeting a draft supplementary agreement, prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of standard agreements used by the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system worldwide, was provided to the Government of Jamaica for its consideration. On the matter of the contribution towards maintenance costs, the Secretary-General noted that, on the basis of the information that had been made available to the Secretariat, the Authority's current contribution represented more than two thirds of the

total cost of the maintenance of the entire building and, on a per-square-foot basis, exceeded the commercial rents payable elsewhere in Kingston. Further, the Authority was being asked to contribute to the upkeep of the Jamaica Conference Centre in addition to the amount payable for the use of the Centre for the sessions of the Authority. The Secretary-General stressed that such arrangements would be unacceptable to member States and requested the Government of Jamaica to provide accurate and transparent information concerning the actual costs of maintenance of the headquarters building.

16. Despite further communications in writing from the Secretary-General dated 19 May, 7 June and 15 December 2000 and 8 March 2001, no such information was made available to the Secretary-General and no further meeting with the representatives of the Government of Jamaica took place until 24 May 2001. By that time, the Secretary-General had taken a decision, communicated in writing to the Government of Jamaica on 15 December 2000 and again on 8 March 2001, to discontinue payment of the current charges for maintenance of the headquarters building on the basis that, 20 months after the adoption of the Headquarters Agreement, it would be fiscally irresponsible to continue to pay maintenance charges calculated in a manner which was not transparent. At the meeting on 24 May 2001, the Government of Jamaica submitted a number of proposed amendments to the draft supplementary agreement, most of which were unacceptable to the Authority as they departed significantly from and had the effect of diluting the provisions of the standard headquarters agreements used by the United Nations. On 9 July 2001, during the seventh session, the Government of Jamaica provided to the Secretariat limited information on certain elements of the maintenance and related costs for the headquarters building for the period from January to December 2001.

17. On 26 July 2001, the Secretary-General wrote to the Government of Jamaica reiterating the basic position of the Authority with regard to the supplementary agreement and again requesting accurate and transparent information, in the form of audited accounts, concerning the actual costs of maintenance of the entire building as well as a detailed breakdown of the overall floor space within the building. On 30 January 2002, the Secretary-General took the opportunity to brief the incoming Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade on the status of the negotiations relating to the supplementary agreement and to reiterate the need for accurate and transparent information to be provided in accordance with the instructions of the Finance Committee. On 6 February 2002, the Secretary-General followed up the meeting with a detailed letter on the subject to the Minister.

18. On Friday, 12 April 2002, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade sent to the Secretariat by facsimile summaries of expenditure on administration, building maintenance and service costs relating to the whole of Block 11 for the period from 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1999. On Monday, 15 April 2002, without warning, and in contravention of the Headquarters Agreement, essential services to the Authority's premises, including air conditioning and janitorial services, were discontinued, forcing the Secretariat to close for two days. Following urgent consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, services were finally restored on Wednesday, 17 April.

19. With respect to the supplementary agreement, the position of the Secretary-General, as communicated on numerous occasions to the Government of Jamaica, remains as follows:

(a) The supplementary agreement should cover in a comprehensive manner both the occupation of the headquarters building and the use of the Jamaica Conference Centre;

(b) The portion of the first floor of the headquarters building occupied by the Authority and refurbished at the Authority's expense should be treated as part of the headquarters of the Authority and not as part of the Jamaica Conference Centre;

(c) The contribution of the Authority to the maintenance of the building within which the headquarters is located should be based on the real occupancy of the building, should be transparent, and should reflect the basic understanding of member States that the Government of Jamaica will provide the Authority with all necessary facilities in return for which the Authority will contribute its share of the maintenance costs for the part of the premises which it occupies. The Authority cannot, as a matter of principle, be expected to bear the cost of "repair and maintenance of the building within which the premises are located, including restoration, renovation and major repairs or extensive maintenance, including structural repairs and replacement to the buildings, installations, fixtures

and equipment, such as building control equipment, air-conditioning equipment, pipes, plumbing and electrical wiring”;

(d) The current charges for the use of the Jamaica Conference Centre (US\$ 18,831 per week) are excessive. In particular, in view of the short time in which the Authority uses the Conference Centre each year, it is not acceptable for the Authority to be expected to bear the costs of maintenance and repair of basic building systems, such as air conditioning. One of the fundamental understandings of member States was that the Authority’s use of the Conference Centre would be on terms no less favourable than those applicable to the Government of Jamaica and its agencies;

(e) Furthermore, the terms of the supplementary agreement, including the maintenance contribution, must be retroactive to the date of signature of the Headquarters Agreement.

20. In addition to the fundamental issue of the level of contribution to the maintenance costs, a number of other critical issues relating to the headquarters of the Authority remain unresolved. These include the definition of the perimeter of the headquarters building, which is essential to determine the precise area which falls under the jurisdiction of the Authority as well as to apportion landscaping and associated maintenance and security costs, the issue of public access, parking and security around the headquarters building, and the completion of essential refurbishment and maintenance work to the fabric of the building.

21. In view of the fact that nearly three years has elapsed since the signature of the Headquarters Agreement, it is a matter of the greatest concern and the utmost regret that no substantive progress has been made in the negotiation of a supplementary agreement.

VII. THE SECRETARIAT

22. The Secretariat is organized into four main functional areas: Office of the Secretary-General; Office of Administration and Management; Office of Legal Affairs; and Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring. The approved establishment of the Secretariat for 2001 was 37 posts, of which 33 were encumbered as at 30 June 2002. It was noted in the report of the Secretary-General to the seventh session (ISBA/7/A/2, para. 13) that, although recruitment and selection procedures were carried out for all Professional posts, and candidates identified for a number of positions, it had proved impossible to attract candidates with appropriate qualifications and experience for posts in certain key areas. Since that time, the situation has improved slightly and, between November 2001 and April 2002, recruitment was completed for the posts of Chief, Administration and Management, and Marine Scientific Officer (Environment).

VIII. BUDGET AND FINANCE

A. Budget

23. The budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001-2002 is the first budget to cover a two-year financial period, as envisaged in the Financial Regulations of the Authority. Following the review of the Secretary-General’s proposed budget by the Finance Committee and the decision and recommendation of the Council in relation to the budget, the Assembly adopted the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2001-2002 in the sum of \$10,506,400. For the financial period 2003-2004, the Secretary-General proposes to maintain the total proposed budget at a level similar to that for the financial period 2001-2002, with necessary allowances for inflation and other incremental costs. Adjustments are proposed to the allocation of funds under the various parts of the proposed budget in the light of the anticipated needs of the Authority over the financial period. The proposals of the Secretary-General relating to the budget for the financial period 2003-2004 are contained in document ISBA/8/A/6-ISBA/8/C/2.

B. Status of contributions

24. In accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, the administrative expenses of the Authority shall be met by assessed contributions of its members, until the Authority has sufficient funds from other sources to meet

those expenses. The scale of assessment shall be based upon the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations. For the financial period 2001-2002, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessment based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for 2000 and 2001 respectively.

25. As at 30 June 2002, contributions to the 2002 budget had been received from 43 members of the Authority. The total amount received was \$3,019,434, or 47 per cent of the total assessed contributions. As at the same date, contributions to the 2001 budget had been received in full from 69 members of the Authority and in part from 6 members of the Authority. The total amount received was \$4,652,928, or 96 per cent of the total budget for 2001. The Working Capital Fund as at 30 June 2002 stood at \$377,686 (86 per cent of the total).

26. In respect of the previous years' budgets (up to 2001), total contributions of \$411,385 remained outstanding from 68 members of the Authority as at 30 June 2002. In accordance with article 184 of the Convention and rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, a member of the Authority which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the Authority shall have no vote if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contribution due from it for the preceding two full years. As at 30 June 2002, 46 members of the Authority were in arrears of contributions for a period exceeding two years. They are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

27. In addition to the above, assessed contributions of \$1,206,164 remain outstanding from four former provisional members of the Authority, namely Belarus (\$13,463), Switzerland (\$7,591), United Arab Emirates (\$9,135) and United States of America (\$1,175,975).

IX. LIBRARY AND PUBLICATIONS

28. The library manages the Authority's specialized collection of reference and research materials on matters relating to the law of the sea and deep seabed mining. The library serves the needs of member States, permanent missions and researchers interested in the law of the sea and ocean affairs. It also provides essential reference and research assistance to Secretariat staff. In addition, as part of the Office of Legal Affairs, the library is responsible for the archiving and distribution of the official documents of the Authority and assists with the publications programme. During the period covered by the present report, the library continued to handle requests from staff members and external users for information and documents. Most of the requests received were for information on the work, history and development of the Authority and on issues related to seabed mining and offshore development programmes, including information on the future potential for deep seabed mining, the environmental consequences of such activities and the biodiversity of the deep ocean.

29. The library continued to pursue an acquisition programme with a view to building a comprehensive collection of reference materials and strengthening the research capability of the existing collection. During the period covered under review, approximately 300 books, CD-ROMs and journals were acquired. A number of items were acquired through personal donations and from institutions and libraries, including the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all donors for their valuable contributions to the library.

30. In order to meet its key objective of providing ready access to information, the library continued to work towards full implementation of an electronic cataloguing system. The initial catalogue was made available for the use of delegates to the seventh session and will eventually be accessible online as an integral part of the Authority's central data repository (see para. 45). One of the important long-term projects the library has been working on is the systematic preservation and archiving of the original documents of the Seabed Committee, UNCLOS III and the Preparatory Commission. This entails preservation of the original documents, some of which are badly deteriorated, through copying onto acid-free archival paper and their subsequent binding. Binding of UNCLOS III and Preparatory Commission documents is almost complete. Once the documents have been reviewed, catalogued and indexed, it is intended to transfer them onto electronic mass storage media.

31. The regular publications of the Authority include an annual compendium of selected decisions and documents of the Authority (published in English, French and Spanish) and a *Handbook*, containing details of the membership of the Assembly and the Council, the names and addresses of permanent representatives and the names of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee. The Authority has also established a programme of legal and technical publications on matters of relevance to its work. In 2001, the Authority published a *Compendium of Basic Documents on the Law of the Sea*, which includes a consolidation of Part XI of the Convention and the annex to the 1994 Agreement, as well as the full text of the Convention, its nine annexes and associated resolutions, the implementation Agreements, the Regulations, the Final Act of UNCLOS III and other related materials. In 2002, the Authority published a volume containing the full text of the documents issued during the Secretary-General's informal consultations on outstanding issues relating to the deep seabed mining provisions of the Convention and will publish, later in 2002, a legislative history of article 170 and annex IV of the Convention. Most of these publications contain important historical material which has not been published elsewhere. With regard to its technical publications programme, the Authority has to date published the proceedings of its workshops, as well as technical studies on the prospects as at 2000 for global non-living resources on the extended continental shelf and on the status of polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts. In addition, the Authority has produced a brochure and information kit, in English, French and Spanish, explaining the work of the Authority, as well as a complete set of the official documents of the Authority on CD-ROM.

32. The Authority's web site (<http://www.isa.org.jm>) contains essential information about the Authority in English, French and Spanish, as well as the texts of all the official documents and decisions of the organs of the Authority. Press releases are available in English and French. Official documents and press releases are available in a downloadable format to afford ready access by members of the Authority. A complete listing of all current publications issued by the Authority may also be found on the Authority's web site.

X. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE AUTHORITY

33. Since the 1970s, considerable investments have been made in research and prospecting activities in the deep ocean with a view to identifying alternative sources of metals. The main focus of such research has been on deep seabed polymetallic nodule deposits, containing nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese. Despite optimistic predictions made in the 1970s and 1980s, a number of factors have inhibited progress towards commercial exploitation of polymetallic nodule deposits. These factors include the hostile environment in which exploration and mining will take place both as regards the open-ocean surface environment and the great depths at which polymetallic nodule deposits occur, the high costs involved in research and development of mining technology, and the fact that, under current economic conditions, deep seabed mining remains uncompetitive compared to land-based mining. As a result of these factors, the interest of the international consortia that were active in the 1970s in deep sea exploration has waned and the only entities that are currently actively conducting exploration activities are the seven contractors, mainly financed through government funding by sponsoring or participating States. In view of these factors, most of the efforts of the contractors are directed at technological research and development, long-term environmental studies and the collection and analysis of environmental baseline data. Although a significant amount of basic and applied research has been carried out in the past or is still in progress, it is broadly accepted that the current level of knowledge and understanding of deep sea ecology is not yet sufficient to allow conclusive risk assessment of large-scale commercial seabed mining. Meanwhile, the prospects for commercial mining of the deep seabed remain uncertain.

34. To date, the substantive work programme of the Authority has been focused on the need to complete the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area and enter into contracts for exploration with the seven pioneer investors that had been registered under resolution II of UNCLOS III. In addition, the Authority has commenced work on consideration of the appropriate type of regulation for prospecting and exploration for other types of potential mineral resources in the Area, namely hydrothermal polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

35. In future, the substantive work of the Authority will be focused in four main areas. First, the Authority will carry out its supervisory functions with respect to contracts for exploration. Secondly, as required by the Convention and the Agreement, the Authority will promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, and coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis. The third main area of focus for the Authority will be on information-gathering and the establishment and development of

databases of scientific and technical information with a view to obtaining a better understanding of the deep ocean environment. Finally, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Convention and the Agreement, the Authority will continue to create appropriate regulatory frameworks for the development of other mineral resources of the Area.

A. Contracts for exploration

36. On 29 March 2001, in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area, the Authority entered into the first 15-year contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the deep seabed with the State enterprise Yuzhmorgeologiya (Russian Federation) and Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) (a consortium formed by Bulgaria, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Poland, the Russian Federation and Slovakia). On the same date, the Secretary-General also signed a contract with the Republic of Korea, which was also signed at Seoul on 27 April 2001 by the Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, Woo-Taik Chung. A contract with China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) (China) was signed at Beijing on 22 May 2001. Contracts with Deep Ocean Resources Development Company (DORD) (Japan) and Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer/Association française pour l'étude et la recherche des nodules (IFREMER/ AFERNOD) (France) were signed at Kingston on 20 June 2001 and a contract between the Authority and the Government of India was signed, also at Kingston, on 24 March 2002. At the same time, the Government of India completed the schedule of relinquishment specified in its certificate of registration.

37. The signature of these exploration contracts is an important milestone because it brings to an end the interim regime established by resolution II. More importantly, it gives practical and real effect to the single regime for the Area established by the 1982 Convention, the 1994 Agreement and the Regulations and, as such, represents a significant step forward for the international community. The Authority is now in a contractual relationship with all the former registered pioneer investors. One of the consequences of the existence of such a contractual relationship is the obligation on contractors to submit annual reports in accordance with the provisions of the contract. In that regard, the standard clauses set out in annex 4 to the Regulations contain detailed provisions relating to the format and content of such annual reports. The objective of these reporting requirements is to establish a mechanism whereby the Authority, and particularly the Legal and Technical Commission, can be provided with the information necessary to carry out its responsibilities under the Convention, particularly those relating to the protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of activities in the Area. Additional guidance to contractors in preparing their annual reports has been provided in the form of the recommendations for the guidance of contractors issued by the Legal and Technical Commission in 2001. The purpose of the recommendations for guidance is to describe the procedures to be followed in the acquisition of baseline data by contractors, including the monitoring to be performed during or after any activities having the potential to cause serious harm to the environment, and to facilitate reporting by contractors. The first annual reports were due to be received at the end of March 2002. At the time of preparation of the present report the first such reports had been received. It is expected that these reports will be analysed and given detailed consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission at its meeting during the eighth session.

B. Marine scientific research in the Area

38. One of the most important, but so far unrealized functions of the Authority is to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, and to coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis. Under article 256 of the Convention, all States and competent international organizations have the right to conduct marine scientific research in the Area. However, unlike the situation in other jurisdictional zones (including the high seas), marine scientific research in the Area is to be carried out “for the benefit of mankind as a whole”. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 143 elaborate upon the respective roles of the Authority and States parties in relation to marine scientific research in the Area. In accordance with article 143, paragraph 2, the Authority is to “promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, and shall coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis when available.” In accordance with paragraph 3, States parties shall promote international cooperation in marine scientific research in the Area, including by participating in international programmes and by ensuring that programmes are developed through the Authority or other international organizations for the benefit of developing States and technologically less developed States with a view, inter alia, to strengthening their research capabilities.

39. Articles 143 and 256 represent a delicate balance between opposing views on whether or not marine scientific research in the Area was to be subject to the jurisdiction and control of the Authority. While UNCLOS III was unable to reconcile conflicting views on the distinction between “fundamental” and “applied” research in the various jurisdictional zones established in the Convention, it is clear that, under article 143, marine scientific research in the Area is to be considered separate and apart from marine scientific research on the high seas and the results of such research are to be utilized for the benefit of mankind as a whole. Consequently, it will become necessary for the Authority to give more detailed consideration as to how best to realize the ideals set out in the Convention and the Agreement concerning the dissemination of the benefits of marine scientific research and technology transfer. One of the key practical questions that arises in this context is how to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits from such research without creating unreasonable obstacles to such activities as commercial biotechnological development and without limiting unreasonably commercial incentives, such as intellectual property rights, for work undertaken on the genetic resources of the Area.

40. The most immediate and practical way in which the Authority has begun to implement its responsibilities under the Convention is through its programme of technical workshops. Since 1998, the Authority has established a pattern of workshops and seminars on specific issues related to deep seabed mining, with participation by internationally recognized scientists, experts, researchers and members of the Legal and Technical Commission as well as representatives of contractors, the offshore mining industry and member States. Previous workshops dealt with the assessment of environmental impacts from activities in the Area, the development of technology for deep seabed mining, and the status and prospects of deep sea mineral resources other than polymetallic nodules.

41. The last such workshop, in 2001, made specific recommendations on standards to be used in the acquisition and interpretation of environmental baseline data. The workshop recommended that the Authority establish centralized environmental databases that would enable contractors and researchers to exchange and share environmental data collected by other contractors and researchers and that workshops be convened to allow scientists and technicians involved in environmental monitoring to share, compare and standardize data and processes for the evaluation of such data. In addition, the workshop made recommendations on areas of cooperative biological research, including international cooperation in developing a taxonomy, on specific questions concerning the way in which deep sea animal communities are likely to respond to the anticipated effects of deep seabed mining. In this regard, one of the key problems that has been identified is that environmental studies on the effects of seabed mining have not been carried out or coordinated on a global or regional level. Although national and multinational research projects have been carried out since the 1970s, including by the current contractors, such projects are at different levels of completion and vary both in their methodology and in their objectives. Further, since the selection of sites for such research projects is determined by the location of the allocated exploration areas rather than upon scientific criteria, it is considered that effective assessment of the potential environmental effects of deep seabed mining will require cooperative and coordinated international research on common environmental problems. Such research will assist in providing a sound scientific basis for the Authority to establish rules, regulations and procedures relating to the protection of the marine environment.

42. To further this aspect of its work, the Authority is collaborating in a research project with the University of Hawaii to study the biodiversity, species range and gene flow in the abyssal Pacific nodule province with a view to predicting and managing the impacts of deep seabed mining. Other institutions participating in the project include the British Natural History Museum; the Southampton Oceanography Centre, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Shizuoka University, Japan; and IFREMER, France. Recognizing that it is virtually impossible to evaluate the threat of mining to deep sea biodiversity without a knowledge of the number of species residing in areas that are likely to be perturbed by mining operations and the typical geographic ranges and rates of gene flow of such species, the objective of the project is to use molecular techniques to evaluate biodiversity levels, geographic ranges and rates of gene flow for three of the dominant animal groups living in the Clarion-Clipperton zone. The animal groups selected for study are polychaetes, nematodes and foraminifera. The project will involve field sampling at three sites within the nodule province, followed by sample preservation and DNA-based molecular genetic analysis. It will be the first time that modern molecular and classical morphological techniques have been combined in the study of biodiversity in the nodule province, allowing for rigorous evaluation by an international team of scientists of species richness, geographic ranges and rates of gene flow. The major outputs of the project will include a detailed report to the Authority on the significance of the project findings to the potential environmental impacts of deep seabed mining, including specific recommendations for managing risks to biodiversity, an archived collection

of biota for use by the scientific community in future and the dissemination of research findings both to the general public and to the scientific community through peer-reviewed scientific publications.

43. From 26 July to 2 August 2002, immediately prior to the eighth session, the Authority will convene the next in its series of workshops. This workshop will build upon the results of previous workshops by examining the prospects for international collaboration in marine environmental research to enhance understanding of the deep sea environment, including its biodiversity. The workshop will review various proposals for research topics to be carried out through international cooperation. The proposed research areas were identified by a group of scientific experts which met in March 2002. The scientific experts based their recommendations and proposals on a detailed review of the research issues identified in the previous workshops convened by the Authority, particularly those concerning environmental research on deep sea ecosystems. Research issues suitable for international cooperation were selected based on the amount of data and information that could be gathered in a reasonable period in order to address specific issues that are required by the Authority to effectively carry out its responsibilities. In addition, such research issues should complement the existing programmes of contractors and yield benefits to contractors from cooperation. As with previous workshops, a number of experts will be invited to present papers on issues relevant to the subject matter, but participation in the workshop will be open to representatives of all members of the Authority.

C. Information and data relating to the international seabed area

44. The third main area of focus for the Authority is on information-gathering and the establishment and development of databases of scientific and technical information. Discussions both in the Legal and Technical Commission and in the workshops organized by the Authority have highlighted the need for scientists and researchers to collect and exchange data and information according to international standards. While large quantities of data and information on marine mineral resources have been collected, they are dispersed widely among various organizations and companies worldwide, in various formats and standards, and are usually not readily accessible to potential users.

45. To overcome this situation, work began in 2000 on the establishment of a central data repository (CDR). The objective of the CDR is to collect and centralize all public and private data and information on marine mineral resources available to the Authority. This will enable the Authority to reconcile available data and information from different sources using uniform data formats, evaluate those data and draw conclusions from them. The CDR will display the acquired data and information and make possible the elaboration of listings, graphs and maps as well as quantitative mineral assessments. It will also enable the Authority to process information for the purposes of preparing technical reports and producing data on CD-ROM. In the preliminary phase of development, information was collected on the formats and availability of relevant data from 18 institutions worldwide. In 2001, the process of collecting data and information commenced by the collection of data relating to polymetallic nodules and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts. Useful data on polymetallic nodules were obtained from the United States Government Geophysical Data Center (NGDC). Data on cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts was obtained from the United States Geological Survey, including information on the location, depth and thickness of known crust deposits and geochemical data as well as a reduced data set with a single entry for each location.

46. The current phase of development focuses on the development and testing of an integrated database system that can be used as a management and research tool. The system is web-enabled and can be easily integrated into the existing MapInfo geographic information system used by the Authority. Late in 2001, the Secretariat acquired a relational database management system to support the development process. It is intended that the CDR will ultimately be accessible through the Authority's web site by authorized representatives of member States, scientists and researchers. Appropriate interfaces are being developed to allow access to the database in this manner. These interfaces will provide a dynamic data analysis tool and users will be able to search the database specifying their own searching criteria. In addition, full online documentation is available for both the polymetallic nodules and the cobalt-rich crusts, providing a description of the data content of the CDR, a description of the various procedures and protocols used in reformatting the data for entry into the CDR and statistical summaries of the data. The CDR will also provide an interactive interface to the library catalogue, as well as to the official documents, press releases and publications of the Authority. To improve accessibility to the web site, the Authority proposes to invest in infrastructure enhancement in order to secure a substantial increase in bandwidth as well as a more secure Internet backbone.

47. During the next two years, the Authority will continue to develop the CDR. In particular, it will resume the collection of data on polymetallic nodules and integrate them into the database structure, integrate data from other resources types, such as polymetallic sulphides, develop and integrate an environmental database and develop and integrate graphical interfaces to provide visual data analysis tools over the Internet.

D. Draft regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area

48. It will be recalled that, at the resumed fourth session of the Authority, in August 1998, the representative of the Russian Federation had made a request to the Authority to adopt rules, regulations and procedures for exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts. In the light of the request to the Authority by the Russian Federation, the Secretariat commenced work in 1999 on a review of the status of knowledge and research on resources other than polymetallic nodules and in June 2000 convened a workshop on the status of and prospects for deep seabed mineral resources other than polymetallic nodules, in particular deep sea polymetallic massive sulphide deposits and cobalt-bearing ferromanganese encrustations.

49. During the seventh session of the Authority, the Secretary-General presented to the Council a paper prepared by the Secretariat on considerations relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area. Following extensive discussions, the Council decided to continue consideration of such issues at the eighth session in order to give the members of the Council the opportunity to consider further the important conceptual issues involved. The Council also decided to request the Secretariat to collect and assemble necessary information which would facilitate further discussion in the Council on important considerations raised in the Secretariat's paper as well as to assist the Legal and Technical Commission in its work. The Council further decided that, in the meantime, the Legal and Technical Commission would commence consideration of the issues involved in the elaboration of such regulations. In the light of the request by the Council, the Secretariat has organized a seminar, open to all members and observers, as well as members of the Legal and Technical Commission, which will take place in Kingston on 7 August 2002, during the eighth session. The seminar will consist of presentations by scientific and technical experts and is intended to provide the members with background information on the status and characteristics of deep sea polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts as well as information on the marine environment where these minerals are located. A summary of the presentations is contained in document ISBA/8/A/1.

50. In this regard, one specific issue which is becoming of increasing concern to the international community is the question of the management of threats to the biodiversity of hydrothermal vent fauna and in particular the legal regime to be applied to bioprospecting (the harvesting for commercial purposes of genetic resources) in the Area. The international scientific community has concluded that deep sea hydrothermal vents are particularly sensitive because of their high percentage of endemic species and the unique nature of many of the species found there. Several such sites are already under potential threat either from intensive scientific exploration, including bioprospecting, or from future mining activities.

51. While it has been generally assumed that activities directed at bioprospecting are, prima facie, an exercise of the freedom of the high seas under article 87 of the Convention, it is important to note that the freedoms referred to in article 87 are not absolute. They are to be exercised "under the conditions laid down by this Convention and by other rules of international law" and "with due regard for the interests of other States in their exercise of the freedom of the high seas, and also with due regard for the rights under this Convention with respect to activities in the Area". The essential problem for the Authority is that the same hydrothermal vent sites that are being targeted by scientific researchers and bioprospectors are also of considerable interest to prospective seabed miners. There is therefore considerable overlap, as well as potential for conflict, between the Authority's responsibilities in respect of the marine environment and activities directed at bioprospecting.

52. Although the role of the Authority in the regulation of activities in the Area is directed primarily at exploration for and exploitation of mineral resources, the Authority also has a broader regulatory role with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment (including its biodiversity) as well as with respect to marine scientific research in the Area generally. This is made clear, inter alia, by (a) article 145 of the Convention, which states that "necessary measures shall be taken in accordance with this Convention with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such

activities” and (b) other provisions within both the Convention and the Authority’s regulations that enable or require the adoption of rules, regulations and procedures for environmental protection. In addition, article 165, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires the Legal and Technical Commission to, inter alia, make recommendations to the Council on the protection of the marine environment, take into account assessments of environmental implications when formulating the rules, regulations and procedures for exploration and exploitation referred to in article 162, paragraph 2 (o), of the Convention, and make recommendations to the Council regarding the establishment of a monitoring programme.

53. It is suggested that the solution to the problem of managing biodiversity in the Area is essentially one of better implementation of existing legal regimes and integration at the institutional level. While management of all the world’s hydrothermal vent sites is an unrealistic goal, the possibility of developing internationally agreed criteria for the identification of sites of critical importance and sensitivity may be considered. In this regard, several States have already taken action to establish marine protected areas around hydrothermal vent sites in areas under national jurisdiction. These include Canada, which established pilot offshore marine protected areas in 1998 at the Bowie Seamount and at the Endeavour Segment of the Juan de Fuca Ridge; and Portugal, which in 1998 designated the Dom João de Castro Seamount as a Special Area for Conservation and a Site of European Community Importance in conformity with the 1992 European Commission Habitat Directive. In addition, proposals have been made to designate part of the Lucky Strike area, on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, as a Marine Protected Area under the OSPAR Convention, and there is increasing discussion within the international scientific and legal community of the idea of marine protected areas on the high seas. Among the key recommendations made by the InterRidge Workshop on Management and Conservation of Hydrothermal Vent Ecosystems in 2000 were the need to establish a central clearing house for exchange of information about research activities on hydrothermal vent sites as well as the need to establish a code of conduct for all users of such sites. The workshop further noted the need for the establishment of a global network of sites for integrated study and long-term scientific observation.

54. In developing the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, the Authority will clearly need to take into account the particularly sensitive nature of the sites where such resources occur. Any regulatory framework will need to contain provisions relating to the collection of baseline data and information on the biological characteristics of areas under exploration, as well as procedures for environmental impact assessment. As a global organization, the Authority will not only benefit from close collaboration with those who are already conducting scientific research on hydrothermal vents, but also has the potential to provide a forum for the discussion and development of principles for the better implementation of the existing legal regime for marine scientific research in the Area and the management of biodiversity in the Area.

XI. CURRENT MATTERS RELEVANT TO DEEP SEABED MINING

55. There are a number of other matters which are of interest to the Authority and which have the potential to impact upon the work of the Authority in the future. These include the implications for the Authority of the recently concluded UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the future implications of the exploitation of non-living resources on the continental shelf.

A. Underwater cultural heritage

56. On 2 November 2001, the thirty-first General Conference of UNESCO adopted a Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Convention, which was adopted by a vote of 87 in favour and 4 against, with 15 abstentions, will enter into force three months after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The Convention is of relevance to the Authority insofar as it purports to deal with the protection of underwater cultural heritage in the Area.

57. In relation to the Area, articles 11 and 12 of the UNESCO Convention state that States parties to that Convention have a responsibility to protect underwater cultural heritage in the Area in conformity with that Convention and article 149 of the 1982 Convention. In particular, States parties shall require their nationals or vessels flying their flag to report to them any activity directed at underwater cultural heritage located in the Area and shall notify the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority of such discovery or activity. Any State party with a verifiable link to the underwater cultural heritage concerned may declare an interest in being consulted on how best to protect it and the Convention provides for a system of consultation and coordination in which the

Authority shall also be entitled to participate. It will be recalled that article 149 of the 1982 Convention provides that all objects of an archaeological and historical nature found in the Area shall be preserved or disposed of for the benefit of mankind as a whole, particular regard being paid to the preferential rights of the State or country of origin, or the State of cultural origin, or the State of historical and archaeological origin. The Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area adopted by the Authority contain provisions, fully consistent with article 149, which would require contractors to notify the Secretary-General of the Authority of any finding in the Area of an object of an archaeological or historical nature and to take all reasonable measures to avoid disturbing such object. The Secretary-General shall transmit such information to the Director-General of UNESCO.

58. In the event that the UNESCO Convention enters into force, it would appear that there are two main implications for the Authority. On the one hand, in approving an application for a plan of work for exploration in an area where a finding of underwater cultural heritage has been notified in accordance with the UNESCO Convention, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council would need to take into account the existence of such finding or activity, although there is no suggestion that the mere existence of an item of underwater cultural heritage in a proposed exploration area would prevent the approval of a plan of work for exploration. On the other hand, in the event that the Authority is notified by a contractor of the finding in its exploration area of an object of an archaeological or historical nature, a State party to the UNESCO Convention may wish to invoke the provisions of articles 11 and 12 of that Convention where such object is also part of the underwater cultural heritage. It must be noted, in any event, that the rights and obligations of the contractor arise from the terms of its contract with the Authority.

B. Activities on the continental shelf

59. Article 82 of the Convention provides for a system of revenue sharing with respect to the exploitation of the non-living resources of the continental shelf where the shelf extends beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline. The article provides that coastal States are to make payments or contributions in kind in respect of the exploitation of such resources and sets out the modalities for such payments or contributions. Any such payments or contributions are to be made through the Authority and distributed to States parties to the Convention in accordance with the criteria set out in article 82, paragraph 4.

60. In 2001, the Authority published a technical report on the prospects as at 2000 for global non-living resources on the extended continental shelf. The report contained an assessment of the potential for non-living resources to occur in areas where there exists the potential for claims to a continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles, based on a statistical evaluation of known occurrences and reserves, the geologic environments favourable for their formation, models for sediment type and thickness, and basement composition. It was found that the major resource potential in those areas is held in ferromanganese nodules and crusts, hydrocarbons and gas hydrates. Regions of high levels of hydrocarbon resource potential, combined with areas where there is potential for claim to a continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles, are found throughout the Atlantic seaboard of North and South America (including the Labrador Sea), northern and western Norway, south and west of the United Kingdom and Ireland, north-west Africa, south-west Africa, south-east Africa and east of the Horn of Africa, south of Pakistan, east and west of India, south of Tasmania, north of New Zealand and east of Australia in the Sea of Okhotsk and off the Alaskan Arctic seaboard. Regions identified as having high gas hydrate potential combined with areas where there is potential for claims to a continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles include the Arctic Ocean, the North-East Atlantic, the Barents Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Sea of Okhotsk. The report also noted, however, that in most of those areas the offshore hydrocarbon resources are currently sub-marginal to para-marginal.

61. On the other hand, technological improvements in recovery efficiency and greater access to deep water areas are already increasing the range of economically recoverable resources offshore and there is considerable potential for exploitation of these resources in the future. As a result of improved technology and risk management practices which have greatly reduced development costs, offshore hydrocarbon exploration and development has moved into some of the deepest deepwater sedimentary areas on the continental shelf. Currently deepwater and ultra-deep water activities are focused on the Atlantic Margin (off Norway and the United Kingdom), the Gulf of Mexico, West Africa (offshore Angola and Nigeria) and Brazil. In the past two years, other areas have come to the attention of deepwater developers, including areas off Labrador and Nova Scotia, Mediterranean Sea, East India and New Zealand. In the Gulf of Mexico, deepwater production surpassed shallow-water production in 2000 for the first

time since lease activities in that region started in 1996. Overall, production from deepwater areas of the Gulf of Mexico has been increasing rapidly, with deepwater wells now accounting for about two thirds of total output. The rated water depth for oil rigs such as *Discoverer Spirit* owned by the United States corporation Transocean Sedco Fores was as much as 10,000 ft (3,048 metres) while its well water depth was 7,308 ft. (2,494 metres). In waters offshore Brazil, the rig *Deepwater Expedition* is operating at a rated water depth of 10,170 ft (>3,000 m) and a well water depth at 7,559 ft.000 (>2,300 m). Off the Atlantic coast of Brazil, the third round of bidding for offshore blocks took place in June 2001, with 53 blocks on offer, 43 of which were offshore, mostly in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas. The bidding round attracted major international oil companies such as ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, TotalFinaElf and Statoil, as well as some smaller companies that were new to the Brazilian oil sector, such as United States-based Ocean Energy and Wintershall of Germany. Petrobrás of Brazil won 13 blocks and will be a joint venture partner in two others with ExxonMobil and TotalFinaElf. What is significant is that most of the bids were made in respect of relatively unexplored areas in over 6,560 feet (2,000 metres) of water.

62. In these circumstances, it is timely for the Authority to begin to consider how the provisions of article 82, paragraph 4, may be implemented in practice.

XII. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

63. The increasingly scientific and technical emphasis in the work of the Authority has a number of consequences for the future direction of the Authority. One consequence is the need to consider how best to utilize the available financial and human resources to meet the demands of the changing work programme. Effective performance of the substantive work programme described in this report is likely to require over time a significant strengthening of the technical capabilities of the Secretariat.

64. Another consequence of such a development is the need to review the current pattern of meetings of the Authority to determine whether it fully meets the requirements of the various organs and bodies involved and to see whether it represents the most efficient mechanism for carrying out the necessary technical work. The organizational phase of the Authority's work is now complete. All the necessary rules, regulations and procedures for the internal administration of the Authority are now in place and the Authority has implemented a budget structure which requires the Assembly to adopt a budget only once every two years. At the same time, it is apparent that there has in recent years been great difficulty in securing the required quorum of member States for meetings of the Assembly in Kingston; a development which adversely affects the ability of the Assembly to take decisions. Indeed, over the past two sessions, the Assembly has needed to meet on only 6 days out of 30 days of scheduled meetings. In these circumstances, it is suggested that it may be appropriate to consider the possibility that the Assembly should meet only once in every two years, when it will adopt a budget and work programme and hold the necessary elections for seats on the Council. At that time, there should also be opportunity for a general debate on future directions for the Authority. Such a debate should take place on the basis of an expanded report of the Secretary-General, which would deal in more general terms with current trends in deep seabed exploration, ecology, environment and prospects for resource development. In the meantime the Council should continue to meet on an annual basis, subject to its workload. While these measures may promote greater efficiency in the work of the Authority, the essential problem would still remain, given the specific requirement under the Convention for a quorum, that is, how to secure broad participation in meetings of the Assembly in order to ensure that the views of all member States are taken into consideration and that there is ongoing involvement of a political and legal nature in the work of the Authority.

65. It is anticipated that, for the foreseeable future, the main catalyst behind the work of the Authority will be the Legal and Technical Commission, combined with a strengthening of the technical expertise of the Secretariat. In addition to its supervisory functions with respect to the contracts for exploration, there are a number of issues which the Legal and Technical Commission will need to consider in detail before they are referred to the Council.

Date: 6 August 2002

1. Since the report of the Secretary-General was compiled in June 2002, the following developments have occurred in connection with the proposed supplementary agreement between the Authority and the Government of Jamaica relating to the use of the headquarters of the Authority (ISBA/8/A/5, sect. VI).

2. On 11 June 2002, a letter dated 4 June 2002 was received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Government of Jamaica (responding to a letter from the Secretary-General dated 6 February 2002) in response to some of the key issues raised by the Authority and referred to in the report of the Secretary-General, including the question of the actual percentage occupation of the headquarters building by the Authority.

3. On 5 July 2002, a meeting took place between the Secretary-General and representatives of the Government of Jamaica. Prior to the meeting, the Authority had been provided with a statement of audited accounts relating to the maintenance costs of Block 11 (the building within which the premises of the Authority are located). The outcomes of the meeting of 5 July 2002 were as follows:

(a) It was agreed that the area currently occupied exclusively by the Authority within Block 11 on the first and second floors of the building amounted to 31.5 per cent of the total lettable area of the building;¹

(b) The Authority took note of the audited accounts produced by the Government of Jamaica but requested clarification of the items contained in those accounts;

(c) The Government of Jamaica took note of the comments made by the Authority in relation to the draft supplementary agreement and stated that it would provide detailed comments at a later date;

(d) The Government of Jamaica proposed a budget for maintenance costs attributable to the Authority for the period from April 2002 to March 2003 in the amount of US\$ 14,803.68 per month;

(e) It was agreed to convene a further meeting at a working level in order to discuss the proposed maintenance budget in greater detail;

(f) Both the Authority and the Government of Jamaica reiterated their positions with regard to the contribution of the Authority towards the costs of maintenance of the premises occupied by the Authority in Jamaica, as reflected in document ISBA/8/A/5;

(g) It was further noted that the Government of Jamaica had carried out substantial restoration and renovation work to Block 11; the Authority noted, however, that it would need to evaluate the work that had been done against the assessment of the condition of the building that had been prepared in 1998.

4. On 11 July 2002, a further meeting, at the working level, took place between representatives of the Secretariat and representatives of the National Land Agency. At the meeting, the Secretariat requested clarification of the various components of the maintenance budget proposed by the Government of Jamaica, particularly those relating to service contracts, major repairs and utility costs. While the detailed information requested at the meeting has not, so far, been forthcoming, the Secretariat informed the Government of Jamaica of its position on the following items contained in the budget proposed by the Government of Jamaica:

(a) The Authority should not be required to contribute towards the costs of insuring the building as this is a basic responsibility of the Government of Jamaica as the owner of the building. The Authority has no insurable interest in the building. Under the Headquarters Agreement (article 44), the responsibility of the Authority is to provide adequate liability insurance;

(b) Depreciation is not a maintenance cost;

(c) The costs of major renovations and repairs to the building are not maintenance costs and should not be charged to the Authority;

(d) The Authority is responsible for the provision of security within the premises actually occupied by the Authority; the provision of external security is a responsibility of the Government of Jamaica pursuant to articles 6 and 7 of the Headquarters Agreement and should not form part of the maintenance costs.

5. As regards the text of the supplementary agreement itself, further progress has been made through exchange of letters with the Government of Jamaica. As at 5 August 2002, agreement had been reached on all issues associated with the supplementary agreement except for the following:

(a) The maintenance costs (although it may be noted that the Government of Jamaica is no longer insisting that the Authority contribute towards insurance, and major repairs and renovations);

(b) The actual extent of the premises occupied on the first floor;

(c) The costs of using the Jamaica Conference Centre;

(d) The issue of a termination clause.

Notes

¹ From 1996 to September 1999, the area occupied by the Authority was only 10 per cent of the available space.

**ISBA/8/A/7/Rev.1-
ISBA/8/C/3/Rev.1**

**Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period
2003-2004. Report of the Finance Committee**

Date: 12 August 2002

1. During the eighth session of the International Seabed Authority, the Finance Committee held four meetings on 6 and 8 August 2002. The Committee re-elected Domenico da Empoli (Italy) as its Chairman.

2. The Committee examined the proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for the two-year financial period 2003-2004 (ISBA/8/A/6-ISBA/8/C/2) in the amount of US\$ 10,509,700. The Committee considered the proposed budget against the audited financial statements of the Authority for 2000 and 2001. In accordance with regulation 6.3 of the Financial Regulations of the Authority, the contributions of the members of the Authority in 2003 and 2004 shall be assessed on the basis of half of the appropriations approved by the Assembly for that two-year financial period. The contributions of the members of the Authority to the administrative budgets in 2003 and 2004 will therefore be \$5,254,850 in both 2003 and 2004, except as adjusted in accordance with regulations 6.3 (a)-(d).

3. The Committee decided to recommend the approval of the proposed budget for the financial period 2003 to 2004 in the amount of \$10,509,700 (annex I).

4. The Committee decided not to recommend that the Secretary-General be authorized to use the accumulated surplus from the previous financial period to make up the shortfall in the Working Capital Fund. Instead, the full amount of the accumulated surplus would be used to reduce the amount of the assessed contributions (annex II).

5. The Committee considered that the line in the budget for “contingency” should be suppressed, since emergencies were to be covered from the Working Capital Fund. The equivalent sum should be incorporated in other budget lines.
6. The Committee decided to recommend that for each year, 2003 and 2004, the Secretary-General be authorized to transfer between appropriation sections up to 30 per cent of the amount in each section.
7. The Committee recognized that, with the organizational stage being completed, the budget had currently reached its operational level for substantive work. In that connection, the Committee noted with appreciation that the proposed budget was oriented to workshops and seminars, which fulfilled the basic objectives of the Authority. The Secretary-General informed the Committee that he intended to adopt a topic for the workshop to be held in 2004 different from that in document ISBA/8/A/6-ISBA/8/C/2, giving priority to following up current work relating to the mineral resources of the area.
8. Also in that connection, there was a need to review the present pattern of meetings in order to reflect the emphasis on substantive work. More time might need to be allocated to the Legal and Technical Commission. It was also important for meetings of the Assembly to be arranged so as to ensure the presence of a quorum.
9. The Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General’s proposal to reclassify certain posts within the existing budget, subject to review by the members of the Finance Committee, where that was necessary to attract appropriate candidates for 2003-2004.
10. The Finance Committee noted with concern that, as at 30 June 2002, 46 members of the Authority were in arrears of contributions for a period exceeding two years and that, in addition, assessed contributions of \$1,206,164 remained outstanding from four former provisional members (see ISBA/8/A/5, paras. 26-27). The Committee recommends that the Assembly address an appeal to members as well as to the former provisional members that have not yet paid their contributions.
11. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to base future proposed budgets on agreed programmes as far as possible, in accordance with the Financial Regulations. The Committee also requested the Secretary-General to transmit additional information to the members of the Committee when circulating the initial draft budget document, with cross-references to the report of the Secretary-General. In particular, they requested that a list of personnel and vacancies, and a document indicating financial performance as well as the auditors’ report, should be included.

Scale of assessments

12. The Committee recommends that, in line with article 160(2)(e) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the scale of assessments of contributions to the administrative budget for 2003 and 2004 be based on the scale of assessments to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2002 and 2003, respectively. While certain concerns were expressed, the Committee recommends that in the light of the changes in the scale of assessments for the United Nations regular budget, the ceiling be set at 22 per cent. The Committee further recommends that the floor be maintained at the same level as in 2001 and 2002. Thus, no member should contribute more than 22 per cent or less than 0.01 per cent of the budget of the Authority. The Committee noted that, notwithstanding the reduction in the ceiling, the actual contributions to be made by all members would be significantly lower in the new biennium. With respect to the agreed contribution of the European Community, the Committee recognized that its contributions would be reviewed and determined from time to time by the Authority, taking into consideration the total amount of the budget. In that regard, the Committee recommended that the contribution for 2003 and 2004 should remain the same as in 2001 and 2002.

13. The Committee recommends that Luxembourg and Maldives, which became members of the Authority in 2000, Bangladesh, Madagascar and Yugoslavia, which became members in 2001, and Hungary, which became a member in 2002, contribute the following prorated amounts towards the administrative budget of the Authority in 2002:

Luxembourg	11 441.00
Maldives	1 100.00
Bangladesh	200.00
Madagascar	160.00
Yugoslavia	1 438.00
Hungary	6 901.00

and that they advance the following prorated amounts to the Working Capital Fund:

Luxembourg	17.00
Maldives	3.00
Bangladesh	5.00
Madagascar	3.00
Yugoslavia	52.00
Hungary	115.00

In accordance with Financial Regulation 7.1, these amounts shall be credited as miscellaneous income.

Audit for 2000 and 2001

14. The Committee considered the reports of the auditors for the years 2000 and 2001. The Committee regretted that the audit reports were not fully satisfactory in regard to form or in terms of clarity, in particular in the way that unpaid contributions were reflected as assets without clear explanations. The auditors were requested to comply fully with the Financial Regulations of the Authority (including the annex) in future reports. The Committee requests that future reports should be sent to its members before the end of April.

Appointment of auditors for 2002 and 2003

15. The Committee recommends that KPMG Peat Marwick be reappointed as auditors for a further year (2002), with the possibility of extension for one further year thereafter (2003), on the understanding that they will comply fully with the recommendations in paragraph 14 above and with the Financial Regulations of the Authority.

Supplementary agreement

16. The Committee recalls its recommendations relating to the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority contained in paragraph 17 of document ISBA/5/A/8-ISBA/5/C/7, in particular its recommendation “that the Secretary-General pursue his negotiations with the host country, based on the most complete information available, in order to secure the best terms for the maintenance of the premises of the Authority”. The Committee noted with regret that it had still not proved possible to reach agreement with the Government of Jamaica on the supplementary agreement (regarding the Headquarters of the Authority and the use of the Conference Centre), and expressed the hope that the two sides would reach an agreement acceptable to the Authority within the shortest time. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to report on the negotiations as soon as possible and in any event by the end of October 2002. Provided that the supplementary agreement leads to a significant reduction in the cost of the premises, the budget shall be adjusted accordingly.

Conditions of service of the Secretary-General

17. The Committee recommends that a study be made on the terms of service of the Secretary-General, including pension arrangements.

Trust fund

18. The Committee noted that the establishment of a voluntary trust fund to cover the travel expenses of members of the Legal and Technical Commission coming from developing countries would be kept under review in

the light of further information to be provided by the Secretary-General. That review should also apply to members of the Finance Committee coming from developing countries.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee

19. In the light of the foregoing, the Committee recommends that the Council and Assembly:

(a) Approve the budget for the financial period 2003 and 2004 in the amount of US\$ 10,509,700, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

(b) Authorize the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2003 and 2004 based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for 2002 and 2003, as adjusted by the Authority, respectively, taking into account that the maximum assessment rate for the budget of the Authority for 2003 and 2004 will be 22 per cent;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to transfer the accumulated surplus from the previous financial period to reduce the amount of assessed contributions for 2003 and 2004 (annex II);

(d) Request the members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget for 2003, on time and in full, no later than 1 January 2003;

(e) Request the members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget for 2004, on time and in full, no later than 1 January 2004.

20. The Committee also recommends that the Council and the Assembly request the Secretary-General to adjust the budget by an appropriate amount once the supplementary agreement is concluded.

Annexes

[Not reproduced]

ISBA/8/A/10

Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the election to fill the vacancies in the Council of the Authority, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Date: 14 August 2002
84th Meeting

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling that, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea:

“Elections shall take place at regular sessions of the Assembly. Each member of the Council shall be elected for four years.”

Elects the following to fill the vacancies in the Council of the International Seabed Authority for a four-year period as from 1 January 2003, subject to the understandings reached in the regional and interest groups:¹

Group A

Russian Federation
Italy²

Group B

Germany
France

Group C³

Australia
Indonesia

Group D

Egypt
Fiji
Jamaica

Group E

Cameroon
Chile
Côte d'Ivoire
Honduras
Myanmar⁴
Nigeria
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia

Notes

- ¹ The agreed allocation of seats on the Council is 10 seats to the African Group, nine seats to the Asian Group, eight seats to the Western European and Others Group, seven seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and three seats to the Eastern European Group.
- ² Italy will relinquish its seat in Group A in favour of the United States of America if the United States becomes a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election to the Council.
- ³ It is the understanding within the African Group that, for 2005, South Africa will be elected to the seat in Group C that is to be occupied by Gabon in 2004.
- ⁴ In 2004, Myanmar will relinquish its seat in Group E on behalf of the Asian Group, which will occupy eight seats in that year.

ISBA/8/A/11

Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2003-2004

Date: 14 August 2002
84th Meeting

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

1. Adopts the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2003-2004 in the amount of 10,509,700 United States dollars;

2. Notes that, in accordance with regulation 6.3 of the Financial Regulations of the Authority, for each of the years 2003 and 2004, the contributions of members of the Authority shall be assessed on the basis of half of the appropriations for the financial period in the amount of 5,254,850 dollars in respect of 2003 and 5,254,850 dollars in respect of 2004, as adjusted in accordance with regulations 6.3 (a)-(d) of the Financial Regulations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transfer the accumulated surplus from the previous financial period to reduce the amount of assessed contributions for 2003 and 2004;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to adjust the budget by an appropriate amount once the supplementary agreement between the Authority and the Government of Jamaica relating to the use of the headquarters of the Authority has been concluded;

5. Decides that, for each year, 2003 and 2004, the Secretary-General is authorized to transfer between appropriation sections up to 30 per cent of the amount in each section;

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2003 and 2004 based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for 2002 and 2003 as adjusted by the Authority, respectively, taking into account that the maximum assessment rate for the budget of the Authority for 2003 and 2004, respectively, will be 22 per cent and that the minimum assessment will be 0.01 per cent;

7. Decides to review the scale of assessments in 2004 when considering the proposed budget for the financial period 2005-2006 in the light of the contributions required from members of the Authority;

8. Also decides that, in respect of Luxembourg and Maldives, which became members of the Authority in 2000, Bangladesh, Madagascar and Yugoslavia, which became members in 2001, and Hungary, which became a member in 2002, the rate of assessment and the amounts of contribution to the general administrative fund and the Working Capital Fund shall be as recommended in paragraph 13 of the report of the Finance Committee;¹

9. Further decides that advances and contributions to the budget for 2003 shall be due and payable in full within thirty days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary-General requesting payment, or as of 1 January 2003, whichever is the later, and that advances and contributions to the budget for 2004 shall be due and payable in full within thirty days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary-General requesting payment, or as of 1 January 2004, whichever is the later;

10. Appeals to the members of the Authority and to those States that are no longer members of the Authority following the termination of provisional membership on 16 November 1998, to pay the arrears in their contributions to the budget of the Authority and to the Working Capital Fund as soon as possible, and requests the Secretary-General to inform the members of the Authority and such other States of this appeal;

11. Appoints KPMG Peat Marwick to audit the Authority for 2002, without prejudice to possible extension, and notes the observations and recommendations in the report of the Finance Committee concerning the audit report;²

12. Requests the Secretary-General to establish as an interim measure a voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission from developing countries and the members of the Finance Committee from developing countries in the meetings of the Commission and of the Committee, and invites members of the Authority and others to make contributions to the fund;

13. Decides to review the question of modalities for financing participation in the meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee, including, *inter alia*, the possibility of making provision from within the administrative budget of the Authority, and requests the Finance Committee to consider this matter further at its next meeting.

Notes

¹ ISBA/8/A/7/Rev.1-ISBA/8/C/3/Rev.1.

² Ibid., para. 14.

ISBA/8/A/12

Decision of the Assembly relating to the official seal, flag and emblem of the International Seabed Authority

Date: 14 August 2002
84th Meeting

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Recognizing that it is desirable to approve a distinctive flag and emblem of the International Seabed Authority and to authorize the use of such distinctive emblem for the official seal of the Authority,

Considering that it is necessary to protect the name of the Authority and its distinctive flag, emblem and official seal,

1. Resolves therefore that the designs reproduced in part I of the annex to the present decision shall be the emblem and distinctive design of the International Seabed Authority and shall be used for the official seal of the Authority;

2. Resolves also that the flag of the International Seabed Authority shall be the distinctive emblem reproduced in part II of the annex, centred on a dark blue background;

3. Directs the Secretary-General to draw up regulations concerning the dimensions and proportions of the flag;

4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to adopt a flag code, having in mind the desirability of a regulated use of the flag and the protection of its dignity;

5. Recommends:

(a) That members of the International Seabed Authority should take such legislative or other appropriate measures as may be necessary to provide for the protection of the emblem, the official seal and the name of the International Seabed Authority, and of abbreviations of that name through the use of its initial letters in order to prevent their use without authorization by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, and in particular for commercial purposes by means of trade marks or commercial labels;

(b) That such measures should take effect as soon as practicable but in any event not later than the expiration of two years from the date of adoption of the present resolution;

(c) That each member of the International Seabed Authority, pending the putting into effect within its territory of any such measures, should use its best endeavours to provide for the protection of the emblem, name or initials of the International Seabed Authority, in order to prevent any use without authorization by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, and in particular for commercial purposes by means of trade marks or commercial labels.

Annex

Part 1



Part 2



ISBA/8/A/13

Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at the eighth session

Date: 14 August 2002

1. The eighth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 16 August 2002.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 82nd meeting, on 5 August 2002, the Assembly adopted its agenda for the eighth session (ISBA/8/A/2).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

3. At the 82nd meeting, on 5 August 2002, Mr. Martin Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) was elected President of the Assembly for 2002. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Argentina (Latin American and Caribbean Group), Slovakia (Eastern European Group), China (Asian Group) and Australia (Western European and Others Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

4. The Assembly elected a Credentials Committee in accordance with rule 24 of its Rules of Procedure. The following were elected as members of the Credentials Committee: Brazil, Jamaica, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Poland, Senegal, South Africa and Sweden. Subsequently, Prof. Ryszard Kotliński (Poland) was elected by the Committee as its Chairman. The Committee met on 14 August 2002. The report of the Committee is contained in document ISBA/8/A/8. At the 85th meeting, on 15 August 2002, the Assembly adopted the report of the Credentials Committee. The decision of the Assembly relating to credentials is contained in document ISBA/8/A/9.

Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee

5. At the 82nd meeting, on 5 August 2002, Mr. Michael Wood (United Kingdom) was elected to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee left by the resignation of Mr. Paul McKell (United Kingdom).

Tribute to Elizabeth Mann Borgese

6. At the 83rd meeting, on 9 August 2002, the Assembly paid tribute to the memory of Elizabeth Mann Borgese.

Annual report of the Secretary-General

7. At the 83rd meeting, on 9 August 2002, the Secretary-General introduced his sixth annual report (ISBA/8/A/5 and Add.1), as required by article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Following the presentation by the Secretary-General, statements were made by the delegations of Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom. The observer delegation of the United States of America also made a statement.

8. Several delegations emphasized how important it was 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. The Assembly was informed that Honduras and Kuwait had recently become parties to the Agreement. The importance of early entry into force of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the Authority was also stressed, and several delegations stated that they would soon be in a position to accede to the Protocol.

9. The Assembly expressed its concern over the long delay in completing a supplementary agreement concerning the headquarters of the Authority, but also took note of the information contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General concerning the recent progress that had been made towards resolving the outstanding issues with respect to the Agreement. The Assembly urged the Secretary-General and the Government of Jamaica to continue their efforts to conclude an agreement as soon as possible.

10. The representative of the Republic of Korea noted that the latest information available concerning investment in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area dated back to 1995. In the view of his delegation, it was necessary for the Assembly to be provided with updated information. The representative requested the Secretary-General to study the matter with a view to the Assembly establishing criteria for obtaining and verifying data relating to such investments.

11. The Assembly took note of the increasingly technical emphasis in the substantive work of the Authority. At the same time, several delegations referred to the need to disseminate information to the wider membership of the Authority. In response to a specific request from some delegations, the Secretary-General informed the Assembly that a document or report on trends in global metal markets would be prepared. While it was acknowledged that the Authority has no regulatory functions with respect to marine scientific research as such, the Assembly noted that the Authority has an important role to play with respect to promoting and encouraging marine scientific research in the Area. The Assembly endorsed the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report for the promotion of international cooperation in research projects aimed at enhancing scientific knowledge of the deep ocean environment and its resources.

12. Several delegations welcomed the opportunity to hold a debate on the pattern of meetings of the Authority. The problem of a lack of quorum at meetings of the Assembly in Kingston was acknowledged to be a serious matter that needs to be addressed. It was agreed that there was a need to give more time to meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission, particularly as that body began its consideration of regulations relating to prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts. Noting that the Legal and Technical Commission was the body with the greatest workload at present, the Secretary-General was requested to organize

the meetings of the various organs of the Authority in the most efficient manner, according to the proposed work plan for each session and bearing in mind the need for flexibility and the existing organic links between the various organs and bodies of the Authority.

Budget of the Authority for the financial period 2003 to 2004

13. The Assembly considered the proposed budget for the Authority for the financial period 2003 to 2004 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/8/A/6-ISBA/8/C/2). In reviewing the proposed budget, the Assembly took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in its report of 12 August 2002 (ISBA/8/A/7/Rev.1-ISBA/8/C/3/Rev.1) and the decision and recommendations of the Council relating to the budget of the Authority (ISBA/8/C/5). At its 84th meeting, on 14 August 2002, the Assembly adopted the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2003 to 2004 in the sum of \$10,509,700. The Assembly also adopted the scale of assessments for 2003 and 2004 in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The decision of the Assembly relating to the budget of the Authority and related matters is contained in document ISBA/8/A/11.

Election to fill vacancies on the Council

14. At its 84th meeting, on 14 August 2002, 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 regional and interest groups and set out in document ISBA/8/A/10.

Group A: Italy, Russian Federation

Group B: France, Germany

Group C: Australia, Indonesia

Group D: Egypt, Fiji, Jamaica

Group E: Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Myanmar, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia.

Official seal, flag and emblem of the International Seabed Authority

15. At its 84th meeting, on 14 August 2002, the Assembly adopted the official seal, flag and emblem of the International Seabed Authority. The decision of the Assembly is contained in document ISBA/8/A/12.

Next meeting of the Assembly

16. The next meeting of the Assembly will be held from 28 July to 8 August 2003. It was noted that the Eastern European Group would, in due course, nominate a candidate for the presidency of the Assembly in 2003, and the Western European and Others Group would nominate a candidate for the presidency of the Council in 2003.

ISBA/8/A/14

Statement by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

Date: 15 August 2002

1. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States emphasizes that Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea applies to the Area, by which is meant the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and that the Authority exercises powers and control over marine scientific research and protection of the marine environment in the Area.

2. The last sentence of paragraph 58 of the Secretary-General's report¹ states that "the rights and obligations of the contractor arise from the terms of its contract with the Authority". While these words are understandable in the context, the Group would point out that the concept is incomplete since, as was discussed at length at previous sessions and as is stated in regulation 14 of the regulations on prospecting, the applicant must comply with "the applicable obligations created by the provisions of the Convention and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority and the terms of its contracts with the Authority".²

3. As to the activities on the continental shelf, the Group noted what the Secretary-General said when introducing his report³ to the effect that the sole competence of the Authority in relation to the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles was that provided for in article 82, paragraph 4, and that it is premature to begin the consideration of the question of contributions for exploitation of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. The Group would therefore like paragraph 62 of the Secretary-General's report to be clarified. It is gratified to learn from the Finance Committee that the workshop to be held in 2004 will have a different objective from the one stated in document ISBA/8/A/6-ISBA/8/C/2, with priority being given to the continuation of the work currently being carried out with respect to minerals in the Area.

4. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States requests the Secretary-General to prepare the agendas for the sessions of the Authority in such a way as to permit the efficient interaction of all its organs on the basis of the planned programme of work, such documents to be approved every year at the first meeting of the Assembly.

5. The agendas should allow the Finance Committee and the Legal and Technical Committee to carry out their advisory responsibilities fully and in a timely manner, in such a way that the Council and the Assembly are able to adopt their decisions on the basis not only of the suggestions in the reports prepared at the end of their annual meetings but also of the responses to the consultations, the reconsidered versions of proposals or the pronouncements on new questions submitted by the Council or the Assembly throughout the session.

Notes

¹ ISBA/8/A/5.

² ISBA/6/A/18, annex, regulation 14 (a).

³ ISBA/8/A/5, paras. 59 to 62.

ISBA/8/C/4

Modalities for financing participation in meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission. Report of the Secretary-General

1. During the seventh session of the Authority, several delegations reminded the Council of the need for financial assistance to enable effective participation in meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission by members from developing countries, noting also that the same issue had been raised at the fifth session of the Authority in 1999.¹ The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a study of possible modalities for such financial assistance for the current session.² In the light of that request, a survey of the practices of the United Nations and various related bodies has been conducted by the Secretariat.

2. The Legal and Technical Commission currently has 24 members. Of these, 17 are from developing States. The estimated cost of a meeting of the Commission of one week's duration (including travel cost and daily subsistence allowance for all 24 members) is US\$163,800. The estimated cost of supporting the participation of members from developing States alone would be \$117,900.

3. Two main options are available for providing financial assistance to members of the Commission from developing States. One option is to establish a voluntary trust fund for such purpose. The other option is to make provision for meetings of the Commission within the administrative budget of the Authority.

4. Within the United Nations system, voluntary contributions are an important source of financing. There are, for example, a number of programmes approved by the General Assembly which are funded in whole or in part by voluntary contributions from Member States, non-member States and other sources. These programmes include, inter alia, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations peacekeeping operations. Voluntary contributions are not treated as part of the regular budget of the United Nations, but are designated as extrabudgetary funds or trust funds. While international organizations create trust funds for various activities, the only general condition for their establishment is that their purposes must fall within the aims of the organization.³ Generally, special rules, organs and procedures exist for the control of such funds.

5. The Financial Regulations of the Authority contain special provisions relating to trust funds. Trust funds, reserves and special accounts may be established by the Secretary-General and shall be reported to the Finance Committee.⁴ The purpose and limits of each trust fund, reserve and special account shall be clearly defined by the appropriate organ of the Authority and, unless otherwise provided by the Assembly, such funds and accounts shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations.⁵

6. Most trust funds established by the United Nations and its specialized agencies have been for the purposes of special programmes or activities of a general nature rather than for supporting the participation of representatives of member States in meetings of technical committees. However, in its resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000, the United Nations General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish no less than four voluntary trust funds for purposes relating to the implementation of the Convention. The first such fund has been established for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission.⁶ As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the decision to establish the fund was taken notwithstanding the provisions of annex II to the Convention which requires that the State party which submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission shall defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties.⁷ A second voluntary trust fund has been established to provide training for technical and administrative staff, and technical and scientific advice, as well as personnel, to assist developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, for the purpose of desktop studies and project planning, and preparing and submitting information under article 76 and annex II to the Convention.⁸ Two other voluntary trust funds were established pursuant to the same resolution for the purposes respectively of assisting States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and assisting developing countries in attending meetings of the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on developments in ocean affairs.⁹

7. With regard to the second option of making provision for meetings of the Commission within the administrative budget of the Authority, precedent for this can be found in the case of the International Law Commission. Established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1947 to promote the progressive development and codification of international law, the Commission is composed of 34 members elected by the General Assembly for five-year terms. Collectively, they represent the principal legal systems of the world, and serve as experts in their individual capacity. The Commission meets annually.¹⁰ According to article 13 of the statute of the Commission, members of the Commission shall be paid travel expenses and receive a special allowance, the amount of which shall be determined by the General Assembly.¹¹

8. It should be noted that, in accordance with the Convention and the 1994 Agreement, any decision by the Assembly and the Council relating to the administrative budget of the Authority shall take into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Notes

¹ ISBA/5/C/5.

² ISBA/7/C/7, para. 7.

³ Henry G. Schermers and Niels M. Blokker, *International Institutional Law*, 3rd rev. ed., 1995 (Nijhoff), p. 646. See also United Nations financial regulations 6.6 and 6.7; United Nations financial rules 106.3 and 106.4.

⁴ Regulation 5.5.

of section 10 of the standard clauses. The detailed report and recommendations of the Commission are contained in ISBA/8/LTC/2.

5. It was noted that these were the first annual reports to be submitted by contractors. There was no methodology either for presentation or for evaluation and the Commission considered that it had taken too much time during the present session to study the reports in detail. Taking this into account, the Commission decided for the future to establish a subcommittee to assist the secretariat in preparing a draft evaluation of the annual reports. For 2003, a subcommittee consisting of Lindsay Parson, Rodrigo Urquiza Caroca and Frida Maria Armas Pfirter was established. To facilitate reporting by the contractors, the Commission also established a standardized format for the annual report, based on the provisions of the regulations (see ISBA/8/LTC/2). It was emphasized that contractors shall strictly adhere to the requirement that annual reports be submitted 90 days following the end of the calendar year.

II. REPORTS ON THE FINAL RELINQUISHMENT OF THE PIONEER AREAS

6. The Commission also took note of the reports on the final relinquishment of the pioneer areas submitted by India (ISBA/8/LTC/R.1) and the Republic of Korea (ISBA/8/LTC/R.3).

III. POLYMETALLIC SULPHIDES AND COBALT-RICH CRUSTS

7. Following the one-day seminar convened by the Authority on 7 August 2002, the Commission began its consideration of issues relating to rules, regulations and procedures for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, using as a basis for its discussions the paper prepared by the secretariat for the Council in 2001 (ISBA/7/C/2). Discussions on this issue were held in open session, in order to allow members of the Council the opportunity to follow the debate in the Commission.

8. In its preliminary discussion of the approaches suggested in the secretariat study, the Commission emphasized the need to proceed cautiously and in a logical manner towards the development of regulations. It was emphasized that, bearing in mind the uncertainties associated with activities in the Area, any scheme for prospecting and exploration should be subject to review after an initial period. While prospecting and exploration should be encouraged, and potential prospectors should therefore be provided with rights over particular areas and priority to apply for exploration contracts, there was also a need to ensure that the Authority received adequate data and information, particularly with regard to the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

9. The Commission requested the secretariat to provide it with further information on the problems associated with sulphides and crusts prior to its next meeting. In particular, the secretariat was requested to provide a report on the potential environmental consequences of mining operations for crusts and sulphides. The secretariat was also requested to review the model clauses contained in the annex to document ISBA/7/C/2 with a view to preparing a revised draft set of regulations for prospecting and exploration, taking into account the discussions in the Commission. Among the issues associated with the regulations that would be taken up by the Commission at its next meeting were a progressive fee system rather than a relinquishment system, further consideration of the grid system for licensing, and continued development and elaboration of the parallel system as it applied to these resources. It was suggested that the secretariat should take into consideration the provisions of relevant national legislation both on land and offshore that might be of assistance to the Commission in its deliberations.

10. It was agreed that the Commission would meet for two weeks in 2003. During the first week of the meeting, which would be held immediately prior to the ninth session, the Commission would break into informal working groups to facilitate detailed consideration of specific issues relating to the regulations. The coordinators of the informal working groups and the topics for discussion would be as follows: Galo Carrera — environmental impacts of exploration activities; Jean-Pierre Lenoble — size of exploration areas and a system whereby contractors might relinquish some of these areas to the Authority; Albert Hoffmann — form of the work plans that applicants would be required to submit, detailing their intentions; and Baidy Diène — type of arrangements between contractors and the Authority, whether a parallel system in which areas would be split between the two, joint ventures or some other formula.

IV. OUTCOMES OF WORKSHOPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS

11. The Commission heard a report on the outcomes of the Authority's workshops on standardization of environmental data and information and on prospects for international collaboration in marine environmental research. The Commission was also informed of the proposal to hold a workshop in 2003 on the development of a geologic model for the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone. Members of the Commission supported the proposal, but also noted the need for an evaluation of the available data on the reserved areas as well as a resource classification system for the Area.

12. The Commission also stressed the importance of the proposed central data repository as a core activity of the Authority and requested the Secretariat to provide it with a report and a demonstration of the database at its next meeting. The importance of providing members of the Commission with an inventory of the data holdings of the Authority was also emphasized.

ISBA/8/C/7 Statement of the President on the work of the Council at the eighth session

Date: 15 August 2002

1. The eighth session of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 16 August 2002.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 78th meeting, on 5 August 2002, the Council adopted the agenda for the eighth session (ISBA/8/C/1).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council

3. At the 79th meeting, on 7 August 2002, Fernando Pardo Huerta (Chile) was elected President of the Council for 2002. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of India (Asian Group), Gabon (African Group), Germany (Western European and Others Group) and Poland (Eastern European Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Budget of the Authority for the financial period 2003-2004 and scale of assessments for contributions of members of the Authority

4. The Council considered the proposed budget for the Authority for the financial period 2003-2004 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/8/A/6-ISBA/8/C/2). In reviewing the proposed budget, the Council took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in its report of 9 August 2002 (ISBA/8/A/7/Rev.1-ISBA/8/C/3/Rev.1). The Council recommended to the Assembly for adoption the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2003-2004 in the sum of US\$ 10,509,700. With respect to the scale of assessments for contributions of members to the administrative budget, the Council recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee. With respect to the issue of modalities for financing the participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission in meetings of the Commission, the Council also recommended to the Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to establish, as an interim measure, a voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members from developing countries and requested the Finance Committee to consider the matter further at its next session, including the possibility of making provision from the administrative budget. The decision of the Council relating to the budget of the Authority and related matters is contained in document ISBA/8/C/5.

Report of the Legal and Technical Commission

5. At its 84th meeting, on 14 August 2002, the Council received the report of the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the eighth session (ISBA/8/C/6). The Council noted the contents of the report. Members of the Council also expressed their appreciation to the Legal and Technical Commission for its decision to open its meetings relating to proposed regulations on polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts to observers. The Council furthermore took note of the evaluation of the annual reports of contractors carried out by the Legal and Technical Commission and noted the Commission's proposals to make its work more efficient in future sessions.

Considerations relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area

6. As agreed at the seventh session, the Council took up the matter of considerations relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area. The Council held informal meetings on 12, 14 and 15 August 2002 to discuss further the issues contained in the paper prepared by the secretariat for the seventh session (ISBA/7/C/2) in the light of a seminar that had taken place on 7 August 2002 and in the light of the consideration of the matter by the Legal and Technical Commission.

7. The Council noted that the Legal and Technical Commission had only just begun its consideration of the proposed regulations and would be continuing its work both intersessionally and during the ninth session. In that regard, it was noted that the Commission had requested the secretariat to provide it with a more extensive set of draft regulations. Members of the Council expressed appreciation for the seminar presented by the secretariat on 7 August 2002 and noted that it had been a very useful means of disseminating technical information on the subject. A number of important considerations could be drawn from the seminar and from the discussions in the Council. The Council noted the need for a flexible approach to the formulation of regulations for prospecting and exploration, particularly in view of the lack of scientific knowledge relating to deep sea ecosystems. It was also clear that polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts were different from polymetallic nodules as well as distinct from one another. Particular ecological considerations arose with respect to polymetallic sulphides located at active hydrothermal vents. For those reasons members of the Council were in favour of different sets of regulations for the two resources and proposed taking a cautious approach to their formulation. At the same time, it was noted that any regulations must be consistent with the overall scheme contained in the Convention, the Agreement and the existing regulations relating to polymetallic nodules. From the point of view of potential investors, the most difficult issues would be how to determine the size of the area for exploration so as to make exploration commercially viable while avoiding monopoly situations. The system for the Area also had to be competitive with regimes established for areas within national jurisdiction.

8. The Council decided to keep the matter under consideration at its next session, in parallel with the formulation of draft regulations by the Legal and Technical Commission.

Next meeting of the Council

9. The next meeting of the Council will be held from 28 July to 8 August 2003.

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- ISBA/8/A/5** **Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**
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*** Appears in this publication**

CUMULATIVE INDEX TO THE MAIN DOCUMENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE COUNCIL FROM 1994 TO 2001

Note: This cumulative index contains a complete list of the main documents of the Assembly and Council from the first session (1994) to the seventh session (2001). Documents of the International Seabed Authority begin with the letters "ISBA". This is a list of all formal A (Assembly) and C (Council) documents (each in four series, -/1; -/L.1; -/WP.1; and -/INF.1, corresponding to main documents, documents with limited distribution, working papers and information papers respectively. Documents of the first two sessions do not have a sessional number (e.g. ISBA/A/1), but from the third session on they do (e.g. ISBA/4/A1).

In addition to A and C documents there are the following series:

- ISBA/FC (Finance Committee)
- ISBA/LTC (Legal and Technical Commission)

The Authority does not keep verbatim or summary records of meetings. Sound recordings are made and retained by the Secretariat. An account of the meetings of the organs of the Authority may be found in the press releases issued by the Authority, but these are not official records and are not necessarily accurate. Official accounts of the work of the Authority are to be found in the successive statements of the Presidents of the Assembly and the Council on the work of their organs, and the annual reports of the Secretary-General.

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ISBA/3/C/11	Statement of the President on the work of the Council during the resumed third session
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ISBA/3/C/L.2	Agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/3/C/L.3 and Corr.1	Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/3/C/L.4	Statement of the President on the work of the Council during the third session
ISBA/3/C/L.5/Rev.1	Draft decision of the Council relating to the requests for approval of plans of work for exploration by the registered pioneer investors
ISBA/3/C/L.6	Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1998 and the establishment of a working capital fund

Fourth Session (1998)

Assembly

ISBA/4/A/1/Rev.2	Plans of work for exploration of the Government of India, Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER)/Association française pour l'étude et la recherche des nodules (AFERNOD) (France), Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. (DORD) (Japan), Yuzmorgeologiya (Russian Federation), China Ocean Minerals Research and Development Association (COMRA) (China), Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) (Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Slovakia) and the government of the Republic of Korea. Report of the Secretary-General'
ISBA/4/A/2	Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee
ISBA/4/A/3	Agenda of the Assembly
ISBA/4/A/4	Report of the Credentials Committee
ISBA/4/A/5	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning the duration of terms of office of members of the Council
ISBA/4/A/6*	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the election to fill the vacancies of the Council, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention

ISBA/4/A/7	Decision of the Assembly relating to the credentials of representatives to the first part of the fourth session of the Authority
ISBA/4/A/8	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/4/A/9	Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly during the fourth session
ISBA/4/A/10	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 1999. Report of the Secretary-General
ISBA/4/A/10/Add.1	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 1999. Report of the Secretary-General. Addendum
ISBA/4/A/11	Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
ISBA/4/A/12	Decision of the Assembly relating to contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1998
ISBA/4/A/13/Rev.1	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999 and related matters. Report of the Finance Committee
ISBA/4/A/14	Credentials on representatives to the resumed fourth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. Report of the Credentials Committee
ISBA/4/A/15	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the credentials of the representatives to the resumed fourth session
ISBA/4/A/16	Communication on behalf of the European Community to the members of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/4/A/17	Decision of the Assembly relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1991
ISBA/4/A/18	Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly during the resumed fourth session
ISBA/4/A/19	Credentials of representatives to the third part of the fourth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. Report of the Credentials Committee
ISBA/4/A/20	Decision of the Assembly relating to the credentials to the third part of the fourth session of the Authority
ISBA/4/A/21	Decision of the Assembly relating to the scale of assessment for the contributions of members to the administrative budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999
ISBA/4/A/22	Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly during the third part of the fourth session of the Authority
ISBA/4/A/23	Scale of assessment for the contribution of members to the administrative budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999
ISBA/4/A/L.1	Provisional agenda of the Assembly
ISBA/4/A/L.2	Draft protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/4/A/L.3	Draft decision of the Assembly concerning the duration of the terms of office of members of the Council
ISBA/4/A/L.4	Draft decision of the Assembly relating to the Protocol on the privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/4/A/L.5	Draft decision of the Assembly relating to the election to fill vacancies on the Council
ISBA/4/A/L.6	Draft decision of the Assembly on the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999

ISBA/4/A/L.7	Draft decision of the Assembly relating to the scale of assessment for the contributions of members to the administrative budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999
ISBA/4/A/L.8/Rev.1	Amendment proposed by the delegation of the Russian Federation to document ISBA/4/A/L.7 of 27 August 1998
ISBA/4/A/L.9	Amendment proposed by the delegation of the Russian Federation to document ISBA/4/A/L.7 of 27 August 1998
<i>Council</i>	
ISBA/4/C/1	Request for extension of provisional membership
ISBA/4/C/2	Agenda of the Council
ISBA/4/C/3	Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the extension of the membership on a provisional basis of the Authority of Canada and Ukraine
ISBA/4/C/4/Rev.1	Draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area. Proposed by the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/4/C/5	Statement of the President on the work of the Council during the first part of the fourth session
ISBA/4/C/6 and Add .1	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 1999. Report of the Secretary-General
ISBA/4/C/7	Election to fill a vacancy in the Legal and Technical Commission. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/4/C/8	Election to fill a vacancy in the Legal and Technical Commission. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/4/C/9	Election to fill a vacancy in the Legal and Technical Commission. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/4/C/10/Rev.1	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999 and related matters. Report of the Finance Committee
ISBA/4/C/11 and Corr. 1	Decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999
ISBA/4/C/12 and Corr. 1	Selection of the candidates for the training programme of the Government of the Republic of Korea. Report of the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/4/C/13	Statement of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. Presented by H.E. Fernando Pardo Huerta, Permanent Representative of Chile to the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/4/C/14	Statement of the President on the work of the Council during the resumed fourth session
ISBA/4/C/L.1	Provisional agenda of the Council
ISBA/4/C/L.2/Rev.1	Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 1999. Proposed by the President
ISBA/4/C/L.3	Draft financial regulations of the International Seabed Authority. Proposed by the Finance Committee

Fifth Session (1999)

Assembly

ISBA/5/A/1 and Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
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ISBA/5/A/2	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 2000. Report of the Secretary-General.
ISBA/5/A/2/Add.1 /Rev.1	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 2000. Report of the Secretary-General. Addendum
ISBA/5/A/3	Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General.
ISBA/5/A/4	Considerations relating to the offer by the Government of Jamaica concerning the location of the permanent headquarters of the Authority. Report of the Secretary-General
ISBA/5/A/4/Add.1	Considerations relating to the offer by the Government of Jamaica concerning the location of the permanent headquarters of the Authority. Report of the Secretary-General. Addendum
ISBA/5/A/5	Agenda of the Assembly
ISBA/5/A/6	Appointment of an auditor. Report of the Secretary-General
ISBA/5/A/7*	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the election to fill vacancies on the Council
ISBA/5/A/8	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000 and related matters. Report of the Finance Committee
ISBA/5/A/9	Credentials of representatives to the fifth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. Report of the Credentials Committee
ISBA/5/A/10	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the credentials of representatives to the fifth session of the International Seabed Authority.
ISBA/5/A/11	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/A/12	Decision of the Assembly relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000
ISBA/5/A/13	Scale of assessment for the contributions of members to the administrative budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000
ISBA/5/A/14	Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at the fifth session
ISBA/5/A/INF.1	Request for observer status to the Assembly from the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)
ISBA/5/A/INF.2	Request for observer status to the Assembly from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
ISBA/5/A/INF.3	Delegations to the fifth session of the Assembly
ISBA/5/A/L.1	Provisional agenda
ISBA/5/A/L.2	Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/A/L.3	Draft decision of the Assembly relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000
<i>Council</i>	
ISBA/5/C/1	Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/5/C/1/Corr.1	Withdrawal of ISBA/5/C/1
ISBA/5/C/2	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 2000. Report of the Secretary-General.

ISBA/5/C/2/Add.1	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 2000. Report of the Secretary-General. Addendum
ISBA/5/C/2/Add.1/Rev.1	Proposed budget for the International Seabed Authority for 2000. Report of the Secretary-General. Addendum
ISBA/5/C/3	Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission in accordance with subsection C, article 163, paragraph 7, of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/5/C/4/Rev.1	Regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area. Revision by the Secretariat together with the President of the Council.
ISBA/5/C/5	Agenda of the Council
ISBA/5/C/6	Report of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the fifth session
ISBA/5/C/7	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000 and related matters. Report of the Finance Committee
ISBA/5/C/8	Decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000
ISBA/5/C/9	Decision of the Council relating to the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/C/10	Decision of the Council concerning the draft financial regulations of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/C/11	Statement of the President on the work of the Council at the fifth session
ISBA/5/C/12	Statement by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States presented by the permanent representative of Chile to the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/C/L.1	Draft rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission. Proposed by the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/5/C/L.1/Rev.1	Draft rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission. Proposed by the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/5/C/L.1/Rev.2	Draft rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission. Proposed by the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/5/C/L.2	Provisional agenda
ISBA/5/C/L.3	Draft financial regulations of the International Seabed Authority. Revision of ISBA/4/C/L.3 of 21 August 1998
ISBA/5/C/L.4	Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/C/L.5	Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for 2000
ISBA/5/C/L.6	Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority concerning the draft financial regulations of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/5/C/L.7	Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority on the rules of procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/5/C/L.8	Proposal by the delegation of the Netherlands on the precautionary principle

Sixth Session (2000)

Assembly

ISBA/6/A/1	Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/A/2	Agenda of the Assembly
ISBA/6/A/3*	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning the Financial Regulations of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/6/A/4 and Add.1	Credentials of representatives to the sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. Report of the Credentials Committee
ISBA/6/A/5	Decision of the Assembly relating to the credentials of representatives to the sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/6/A/6	Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at the first part of the sixth session
ISBA/6/A/7 - ISBA/6/C/4	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2001-2002. Report of the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/A/8	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning the appointment of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/6/A/9	Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
ISBA/6/A/10	Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/A/11	Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/A/12	Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee in accordance with section 9, paragraph 5, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/A/13	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002. Report of the Finance Committee
ISBA/6/A/14	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the election to fill the vacancies on the Council, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention
ISBA/6/A/15	Decision of the Assembly relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2001-2002
ISBA/6/A/16	Credentials of representatives to the resumed sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. Report of the Credentials Committee
ISBA/6/A/17	Decision of the Assembly relating to the Credentials of representatives to the resumed sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/6/A/18	Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority on the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area
ISBA/6/A/19	Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at its resumed sixth session
ISBA/6/A/INF.1	Delegations to the first part of the sixth session of the Assembly
ISBA/6/A/INF.2	Delegations to the resumed sixth session of the Assembly
ISBA/6/A/L.1/ Rev.1	Provisional agenda of the Assembly

ISBA/6/A/L.2	Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning the Financial Regulations of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/6/A/L.3	Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the election to fill the vacancies on the Council, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention
<i>Council</i>	
ISBA/6/C/1	Agenda of the Council
ISBA/6/C/2*	Draft Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area. Revision of ISBA/5/C/4/Rev.1 of 14 October 1999, prepared by the Secretariat together with the President of the Council
ISBA/6/C/3	Statement of the President on the work of the Council at the sixth session
ISBA/6/C/4	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2001-2002. Report of the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/C/5	Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission in accordance with subsection C, article 163, paragraph 7, of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Note by the Secretary-General
ISBA/6/C/6	Proposed budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2001 to 2002. Report of the Finance Committee
ISBA/6/C/7	Decision of the Council relating to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2001-2002
ISBA/6/C/8 and Corr.1	Draft Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area. Proposal by the President of the Council
ISBA/6/C/9	Decision of the Council of the Authority concerning the Rules of Procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/6/C/10	Decision of the Council of the Authority concerning the Staff Regulations of the Authority
ISBA/6/C/11	Report of the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the resumed sixth session
ISBA/6/C/12	Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area
ISBA/6/C/13	Statement of the President on the work of the Council at the resumed sixth session
ISBA/6/C/INF.1	Outstanding issues with respect to the draft regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area (ISBA/5/C/4/Rev.1). Note by the Secretariat
ISBA/6/C/L.1	Provisional agenda of the Council
ISBA/6/C/L.2	Draft staff regulations of the International Seabed Authority
ISBA/6/C/L.3	Proposal submitted by the delegation of Chile concerning document ISBA/5/C/4/Rev.1 of 14 October 1999
ISBA/6/C/L.4	Draft decision of the Council of the Authority concerning the Rules of Procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission
ISBA/6/C/L.5	Draft decision of the Council relating to the budget for the financial period 2001-2002
ISBA/6/C/L.6	Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority concerning the Staff Regulations of the Authority

ISBA/6/C/L.7 Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area

Seventh Session (2001)

Assembly

ISBA/7/A/1 Agenda of the Assembly

ISBA/7/A/2 Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under Article 166, Paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

ISBA/7/A/3 Election of the members of the Finance Committee

ISBA/7/A/3/Add.1 Election of the members of the Finance Committee

ISBA/7/A/3/Add.2 Election of the members of the Finance Committee

ISBA/7/A/3/Add.3 Election of the members of the Finance Committee

ISBA/7/A/3/Add.4 Election of the members of the Finance Committee

ISBA/7/A/4 and Corr.1 Credentials of Representatives to the seventh session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

ISBA/7/A/5 Decision of the Assembly on the International Seabed Authority concerning the Staff Regulations of the Authority

ISBA/7/A/6 Decision of the Assembly relating to the Credentials of representatives to the seventh session of the International Seabed Authority

ISBA/7/A/7 Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at the seventh session

ISBA/7/A/L.1 Provisional agenda of the Assembly

ISBA/7/A/INF.1 Request for Observer Status to the Assembly

ISBA/7/A/INF.2 Delegations to the seventh session of the Assembly

Council

ISBA/7/C/1 Agenda of the Council

ISBA/7/C/2 Considerations relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for hydrothermal polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the area

ISBA/7/C/3 Election of the members of the Legal and Technical Committee

ISBA/7/C/3/Add.1 Election of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission

ISBA/7/C/3/Add.2 Election of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission

ISBA/7/C/4 Status of contracts for exploration issued in accordance with the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area

ISBA/7/C/5 Report of the Chairman of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the seventh session

ISBA/7/C/6 Decision of the Council relating to the election of Members of the Legal and Technical Commission

ISBA/7/C/7 Statement of the President on the work of the Council at the seventh session

ISBA/7/C/L.1 Provisional agenda of the Council
