



Assembly

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Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of Earthworks

Note by the secretariat

1. On 17 March 2017, the non-profit organization Earthworks submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The letter provided by the applicant is attached as an annex to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.



Annex

Letter dated 17 March 2017 from the Mining Programme Director of Earthworks addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

In accordance with rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, Earthworks is seeking to participate in meetings of the Assembly as an observer.

Earthworks is a non-profit organization incorporated in Washington DC. Its mission is to protect communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral development. We work with communities around the world, from Papua New Guinea to Mexico. We are members of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, which is an observer to the Assembly.

Earthworks has been instrumental in the development of social, environmental and financial requirements for mining in the United States and elsewhere. We sit on the steering committee of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance, a multi-stakeholder process that is defining standards and providing oversight to mineral extraction.

Earthworks welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Authority and member States. It respectfully requests that its application to be granted observer status in the Assembly be favourably considered. Please let us know if you need additional information.

(Signed) Payal **Sampat**
Mining Programme Director
