



ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2023 TO 2026 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of one-half of the members of the Council for the period 2023 to 2026.

2. In accordance with section 3, paragraph 15, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (“the Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group [**Group A**];

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties, which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals [**Group B**];

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies [**Group C**];

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States [**Group D**];

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Europe and Others [**Group E**].

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asia-Pacific Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.”¹ Therefore, for the period 2023 to 2026 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

- (a) For the year of 2023, the Group of Western European and Other States would relinquish a seat;
- (b) For the year of 2024, the Group of African States would relinquish a seat;
- (c) For the year of 2025, the Group of Asia-Pacific States would relinquish a seat;
- (d) For the year of 2026, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would relinquish a seat.

4. As agreed, the regional group, which relinquishes a seat, has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without the right to vote during the period of relinquishment.

5. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 19 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2020. A vacancy-filling election was held during the twenty-sixth session when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years as from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024, subject to the understandings reached in the regional groups and interest groups (see [ISBA/26/A/20](#)):

- Group A:** China, Japan
- Group B:** India
- Group C:** Canada, South Africa
- Group D:** Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda

¹ ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1. The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 47 member States.

Group E: Argentina, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands², Poland, Sierra Leone³, Spain⁴, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland⁵

II. ELECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2023 TO 2026

6. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly,⁶ the terms of office of 18 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2022. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

Group A (2 members)

7. **Italy**⁷ and the **Russian Federation** were elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022. Therefore, two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2023 to 2026.

Group B (3 members)

8. **France, Germany** and the **Republic of Korea** were elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022. Therefore, three vacancies will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2023 to 2026.

Group C (2 members)

9. **Australia**⁸ and **Chile**⁹ were elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022. Therefore, two vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2023 to 2026.

Group D (3 members)

10. **Fiji, Jamaica** and **Lesotho** were elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022. Therefore, three vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2023 to 2026.

Group E (8 members)

11. **Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia**¹⁰, **Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Singapore** and **Tonga** were elected in 2018 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2022. Therefore, eight vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2023 to 2026.

12. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period from 2021 to 2024 is provided as **Annex I**.

² The Netherlands is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Belgium for the year 2023 and after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2024).

³ Sierra Leone is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Algeria for the remainder of the four-year term (2023 and 2024).

⁴ Spain is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2022.

⁵ The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2023.

⁶ ISBA/24/A/9.

⁷ Italy would relinquish its seat in group A in favour of the United States of America if the United States became a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election to the Council.

⁸ Australia was elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2021, it will relinquish its seat in group C to Indonesia. Australia will be a member of group E in 2021.

⁹ Chile was elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2020, it will relinquish its seat in group C to Indonesia. Chile will be a member of group E in 2020.

¹⁰ Indonesia was re-elected for a period of four years (2019–2022), on the understanding that, in 2020, it will relinquish its seat in group E to Chile and will occupy the seat in group C relinquished by Chile, and that, in 2021, it will relinquish its seat in group E to Australia and will occupy the seat in group C relinquished by Australia.

13. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority, which are potential members of the groups, defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the Agreement is provided as **Annex II**.

ANNEX I

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 2021 TO 2024

No	2021	2022	2023	2024
Group A (4 members)				
1	China	China	China	China
2	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan
3	Italy	Italy		
4	Russian Federation	Russian Federation		
Group B (4 members)				
5	India	India	India	India
6	France	France		
7	Germany	Germany		
8	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea		
Group C (4 members)				
9	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada
10	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa
11	Indonesia	Australia		
12	Chile	Chile		
Group D (6 members)				
13	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
14	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil
15	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda
16	Fiji	Fiji		
17	Jamaica	Jamaica		
18	Lesotho	Lesotho		
Group E (18 members)				
19	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina
20	Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Costa Rica
21	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic
22	Mauritius	Mauritius	Mauritius	Mauritius
23	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco
24	Netherlands	Netherlands	Belgium	Norway
25	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland
26	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Algeria	Algeria
27	Spain	Norway	Spain	Spain
28	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago
29	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	Norway	United Kingdom
30	Cameroon	Cameroon		
31	Ghana	Ghana		
32	Australia	Indonesia		
33	Mexico	Mexico		
34	Mozambique	Mozambique		
35	Nigeria	Nigeria		
36	Singapore	Singapore		
37	Tonga*	Tonga		

* Tonga relinquished the seat in 2021. It is a turn for GRULAC to relinquish a seat in 2022, the Group of Western European and other States in 2023 and the Group of African States in 2024.

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT

GROUP A MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS (Derived from lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 of ISBA/27/A/CRP.2)		
Austria	Germany	Philippines
Australia	Ghana	Rep. of Korea
Belgium	India	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	Indonesia	South Africa
Brazil	Italy	Spain
Canada	Japan	Thailand
China	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Cuba	Mexico	Ukraine
Finland	Namibia	Zambia
France	Netherlands	
Gabon	Norway	

GROUP B MAJOR INVESTORS (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/27/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Netherlands	

GROUP C MAJOR NET EXPORTERS AND DEVELOPING STATE MAJOR EXPORTERS (Derived from list 6 of ISBA/27/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Gabon	Papua New Guinea
Brazil	Ghana	Philippines
Canada	Guatemala	Poland
Chile	India	Russian Federation
China	Indonesia	South Africa
Congo, DR	Kazakhstan	Spain
Côte d'Ivoire	Madagascar	Ukraine
Cuba	Malaysia	Zambia
Finland	Mexico	Zimbabwe
France	Mongolia	

*This group should include at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies.

GROUP D
GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS

Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States. Derived under Group D section (List 7-13) of ISBA/27/A/CRP.2.

Albania	Grenada	Palau
Algeria	Guatemala	Papua New Guinea
Angola	Guinea	Paraguay
Antigua and Barbuda	Guinea-Bissau	Philippines, the
Argentina	Guyana	Qatar
Armenia	Haiti	Romania
Azerbaijan	India	Republic of Moldova
Bahamas	Indonesia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bahrain	Iraq	Saint Lucia
Bangladesh	Jamaica	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Barbados	Jordan	Samoa
Belize	Kiribati	Sao Tome and Principe
Benin	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Senegal
Botswana	Lesotho	Serbia
Brazil	Liberia	Seychelles
Burkina Faso	Macedonia, North	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Madagascar	Singapore
Cape Verde	Malawi	Solomon Islands
Chad	Malaysia	Somalia
Chile	Maldives	South Africa
China	Mali	Sri Lanka
Comoros	Marshall Islands	Sudan
Congo	Mauritania	Suriname
Cook Islands	Mauritius	Syrian Arab Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Mexico	Timor-Leste
Cyprus	Micronesia, Federated States of	Thailand
Cuba	Mongolia	Togo
Congo, Democratic Rep of the	Montenegro	Tonga
Djibouti	Morocco	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Mozambique	Tuvalu
Dominican Republic	Myanmar	Uganda
Ecuador	Namibia	Ukraine
Egypt	Nauru	United Republic of Tanzania
Eswatini	Nepal	Vanuatu
Fiji	Niger	Viet Nam
Gabon	Nigeria	Yemen
Gambia, the	Niue	Zambia
Georgia	Oman	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Pakistan	

GROUP E					
MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS					
AFRICAN GROUP (47 MEMBERS)					
1	Algeria	17	Gabon	33	Niger
2	Angola	18	Gambia	34	Nigeria
3	Benin	19	Ghana	35	Sao Tome and Principe
4	Botswana	20	Guinea	36	Senegal
5	Burkina Faso	21	Guinea-Bissau	37	Seychelles
6	Cameroon	22	Kenya	38	Sierra Leone
7	Cape Verde	23	Lesotho	39	Somalia
8	Chad	24	Liberia	40	South Africa
9	Comoros	25	Madagascar	41	Sudan
10	Congo	26	Malawi	42	Togo
11	Côte d'Ivoire	27	Mali	43	Tunisia
12	Democratic Republic of the Congo	28	Mauritania	44	Uganda
13	Djibouti	29	Mauritius	45	United Republic of Tanzania
14	Egypt	30	Morocco	46	Zambia
15	Equatorial Guinea	31	Mozambique	47	Zimbabwe
16	Eswatini	32	Namibia		
ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (45 MEMBERS)					
1	Bahrain	16	Lebanon	31	Qatar
2	Bangladesh	17	Malaysia	32	Republic of Korea
3	Brunei Darussalam	18	Maldives	33	Samoa
4	China	19	Marshall Islands	34	Saudi Arabia
5	Cook Islands	20	Micronesia (Federated States of)	35	Singapore
6	Cyprus	21	Mongolia	36	Solomon Islands
7	Fiji	22	Myanmar	37	Sri Lanka
8	India	23	Nauru	38	State of Palestine
9	Indonesia	24	Nepal	39	Thailand
10	Iraq	25	Niue	40	Timor-Leste
11	Japan	26	Oman	41	Tonga
12	Jordan	27	Pakistan	42	Tuvalu
13	Kiribati	28	Palau	43	Vanuatu
14	Kuwait	29	Papua New Guinea	44	Viet Nam
15	Lao People's Democratic Republic	30	Philippines	45	Yemen
EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (23 MEMBERS)					
1	Albania	9	Estonia	17	Republic of Moldova
2	Armenia	10	Georgia	18	Romania
3	Azerbaijan	11	Hungary	19	Russian Federation
4	Belarus	12	Latvia	20	Serbia
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	Lithuania	21	Slovakia
6	Bulgaria	14	Montenegro	22	Slovenia

7	Croatia	15	North Macedonia	23	Ukraine
8	Czech Republic	16	Poland		
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES GROUP (29 MEMBERS)					
1	Antigua and Barbuda	11	Dominica	21	Nicaragua
2	Argentina	12	Dominican Republic	22	Panama
3	Bahamas	13	Ecuador	23	Paraguay
4	Barbados	14	Grenada	24	Saint Kitts and Nevis
5	Belize	15	Guatemala	25	Saint Lucia
6	Bolivia	16	Guyana	26	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
7	Brazil	17	Haiti	27	Suriname
8	Chile	18	Honduras	28	Trinidad and Tobago
9	Costa Rica	19	Jamaica	29	Uruguay
10	Cuba	20	Mexico		
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES GROUP (23 MEMBERS)					
1	Australia	9	Greece	17	New Zealand
2	Austria	10	Iceland	18	Norway
3	Belgium	11	Ireland	19	Portugal
4	Canada	12	Italy	20	Spain
5	Denmark	13	Luxembourg	21	Sweden
6	Finland	14	Malta	22	Switzerland
7	France	15	Monaco	23	United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
8	Germany	16	Netherlands		