



**British Institute of  
International and  
Comparative Law**

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Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority  
International Seabed Authority  
ISBAHQ 2nd Floor, 14-20 Port Royal St,  
Kingston, Jamaica  
*By email*

17 April 2024

Dear Mr Lodge,

On behalf of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), I am writing to formally apply for non-governmental organisation observer status to the International Seabed Authority.

BIICL is a leading independent research Institute for international and comparative law. It is a dynamic and influential body comprised of around 30 research staff working with an extensive network of advisors and collaborators from across the legal world, universities, international organisations, business, and government. Our research portfolio is both national and international and cuts across a broad range of subjects of current and emerging concerns including Law of the Sea, Climate Change and The Environment, Business and Human Rights, the Rule of Law, AI and Technology, Cultural Heritage, Migration and Displacement, amongst others. The Institute is supported at the highest level of the legal profession and judiciary and has significant convening power, enabling it to respond quickly and authoritatively to emerging issues. In addition to our research, we also convene events, and implement synchronous training programmes, as well as tailored sessions.

Since its founding, BIICL has conducted applied research on a wide range of issues related to public international law, the law of the sea, and international dispute resolution more broadly, creating real-world impact through its projects, publications, and capacity training programs. States, in their presentation of claims before international courts and tribunals; national law officials in their opinions to their governments; and judges on international courts and tribunals have consulted and quoted with approval the ongoing work of BIICL on the law of the sea and the governance of the global commons. Among BIICL's notable projects is its work on Joint Development Agreements, which remains one of the leading contributions in the field. This project offers a practical, flexible, and comprehensive tool for negotiations for the joint development of seabed resources where no maritime boundary has been agreed. BIICL's 'Report on the Obligations of States under Articles 74(3) and 83(3) of UNCLOS in respect of Undelimited Maritime Areas' and the follow-up book project titled 'UNCLOS as a Living Treaty' as well as the BIICL study on 'Evidence in International Courts and Tribunals' were all quoted with approval in various cases before ITLOS and the ICJ and are used as key manuals by judges and international law practitioners. Other more recent law of the sea-related projects at BIICL include research on Deep-Sea

Methane Hydrates, Oceanic Carbon Storage, Climate Litigation, as well as Climate Change Impacts Mitigation in South Pacific Small Island States.

BIICL continues to organise and deliver a range of in-person and online events, workshops, and capacity-building training courses across numerous international law areas, including Law of the Sea, Energy Law, Climate Change law, and emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyberoperations, and Law and Ethics. Over the past year alone, BIICL has trained over 550 people and granted over 60 scholarships to individuals underrepresented in the legal communities.

Please find enclosed our completed application form.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. Please let me know if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Maniatis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Spyros Maniatis  
Institute Director

## A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization :  
British Institute for International and Comparative Law
2. Address of headquarters:  
Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Sq, London WC1B 5JP
3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters:  
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4. Telephone number : +44 (0)20 7862 5151
5. Fax number : +44 (0)20 7862 5152
6. Email address : [info@biicl.org](mailto:info@biicl.org)
7. Name, title and contact details of focal point :  
Professor Spyros Maniatis, Institute Director,  
[s.maniatis@biicl.org](mailto:s.maniatis@biicl.org)
8. **Background information on the organization:** The British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) is a leading independent research centre in the fields of international and comparative law and the Rule of Law. For 65 years, its aim has been to advance the understanding of international and comparative law; to promote the rule of law in international affairs; and to promote their application through research, publications and events. With a team of over 30 multi-disciplinary and leading experts, our work is at the forefront of discussions on contemporary issues of international and comparative law subjects including law of the sea, migration, climate change, rule of law, business and human right, cultural heritage and many more.  
  
BIICL has significant expertise both in conducting complex legal research, and in communicating it to a wider audience. Our research is grounded in strong conceptual foundations with an applied focus to provide practical solutions, examples of good practice and recommendations for future policy changes and legal actions. We disseminate our research findings through events and seminars bringing together internationally recognised leading experts from academia, governments, business and legal practice. Informed by our applied research, our extensive training programme attracts diverse audiences from around the world. We also publish the international and comparative law quarterly, a journal recognized as one of the leading publications in the fields of international and comparative law.
9. **Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?**  
No.

10. **Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?**

No.

11. **Relationships with intergovernmental organizations.**

No

12. **List of publications and/or other relevant documentation (Selected)**

- Jill Barret, *Law of the Sea - UNCLOS as a Living Treaty* (BIICL 2016)
- Anna Riddell and Brendan Plant, *Evidence before the International Court of Justice* (BIICL 2016).
- Jill Barret and Naomi Burke, *Report on the Obligations of States under Articles 74(3) and 83(3) of UNCLOS in respect of Undelimited Maritime Areas* (BIICL 2016)
- Constantinos Yiallourides, *Maritime Disputes and International Law* (Routledge 2019).
- Ivano Alogna, Christine Bakker, and Jean-Pierre Gauci (eds) *Climate Change Litigation: Global Perspectives* (BRILL 2021).
- Dr Ivano Alogna and Lise Smit, *Human Rights Due Diligence for Climate Change Impacts* (Report, BIICL 2021).
- Constantinos Yiallourides, *Rising Sea Levels: Promoting Climate Justice through International Law* (Report, BIICL 2021).
- Petra Butler et al, *Intangible Cultural Heritage within the Laws and Policies of South Pacific Small Island States in the Climate Crisis* (Periscope 2023)
- Constantinos and Jack Kenny, *Deep Seabed Mining & International Law: Is a Precautionary Pause Required?* (Report, BIICL 2023).
- Jack Kenny, *Analysing the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty* (Report, BIICL 2023).
- Jack Kenny and Constantinos Yiallourides, *Promoting Climate Justice through International Law: Climate Litigation & Climate Advisory Opinions* (Report, BIICL 2023).
- Jean-Pierre Gauci and Barrie Sander (eds) *Teaching International Law: Reflections on Pedagogical Practice in Context* (Routledge 2024)
- Jean-Pierre Gauci and Petra Butler (eds) *Small States and International Law* (forthcoming BRILL 2024).

## **B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly**

Drawing on its extensive experience and expertise in the law of the sea, public international law and international environmental law, BIICL is committed to actively engaging with, and contributing to, the work of the ISA including the activities of The Enterprise under Section 2 of the Annex to the 1994 Agreement. BIICL is well positioned to offer legal advice on all issues of international law, taking into account the latest legal and scientific developments. This includes contributing suggestions and advice pertaining to the environmental regulation of marine activities in the Area, including seabed mining of the Enterprise, the development - and in due course implementation - of regulations governing the exploitation of mineral resources and the

management of future disputes arising from the exploitation of minerals in the Area.

BIICL is well-positioned to assist in the drafting of documents such as regulations, guidelines, and other legal instruments relevant to the governance of the Area.

BIICL recognises the importance of facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange among stakeholders involved in the governance of the Area. To this end, BIICL envisions organising public events, capacity training workshops, and seminars relevant to the ongoing work of the ISA, current state of negotiations, and emerging issues in the field of deep-sea mining and marine environmental protection.

At the core of BIICL's approach is the integration of stakeholders' understanding and experience through independent research, both doctrinal and empirical. This process enables the formulation of innovative ideas and policy directions grounded in international and comparative law. BIICL's collaborative approach brings together law firms, governments, legislators, corporations, international organizations, academics, and the civil society, establishing BIICL as a trusted and practical research institution. For instance, BIICL's Investment Treaty Forum (ITF) was founded in 2004 to serve as a global centre for serious high-level debate in the field of international investment law. The Forum brings together some of the most expert and experienced lawyers, business managers, policy advisers, academics and government officials working in the field. Like BIICL itself, the Forum has a reputation for independence, even-handedness, and academic rigour.

The BIICL team is adept at drafting blogs, articles, and other forms of online content that highlight the significance of the ISA's work, its impact and the broader connections to international environmental law and policy.

BIICL envisions that its research capacity building programmes will be a valuable resource for the ISA but also for researchers, conservationists, practitioners, policymakers, and government advisors interested in the governance of global ocean commons. In particular, BIICL's training courses on Law of the Sea, Public International Law, International Investment Law and Dispute Resolution as well as other tailored capacity training programmes can help in informing a better understanding of the process, development, and improvement of policies and environmental practices related to the deep-sea mining and marine conservation in the Area.

As an NGO Observer, BIICL is fully committed to supporting the ISA's mandate under the 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention and the 1994 Implementation Agreement, contributing to its work through legal and policy advice, stakeholder engagement, and capacity-building initiatives. By leveraging its expertise in international and comparative law, along with its extensive network of partners and collaborators across the globe, BIICL is well-positioned to make a positive impact on the governance of the Area, the protection of the marine environment and the maintenance of peace and security through the peaceful settlement of disputes.

BIICL remains open to receiving suggestions on how best to support the ISA's mission, emphasising our commitment to collaborative and inclusive efforts to

advance climate justice and the sustainable, and ecologically-sound use and protection of the marine environment.