



Council

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Agenda item 8

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters

Laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the International Seabed Authority with respect to the activities in the Area, and related matters

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is provided pursuant to the decision of the Council, at the seventeenth session of the Authority, in which it requested the Secretary -General to prepare a report on the laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the Authority with respect to the activities in the Area and invited sponsoring States and other members of the Authority, as appropriate, to provide information on, or the texts of, relevant national laws, regulations and administrative measures to the secretariat (ISBA/17/C/20, para. 3), and its subsequent decision to make this a standing item on its agenda (see ISBA/18/C/8 and ISBA/18/C/8/Add.1).
2. It is also recalled that, at the twenty-third session, in 2017, by its decision relating to the final report on the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Assembly invited sponsoring States, if they had not already done so, to review their respective national legislation to control activities by their sponsored entities, drawing on the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ISBA/23/A/13, sect. B).
3. By note verbale dated 16 February 2024, the secretariat invited sponsoring States and other members of the Authority to submit to the secretariat the texts of relevant national laws, regulations and administrative measures or related information and to indicate whether they were in the process of reviewing them or had relevant policies towards legislating in this regard. As at 20 May 2024, such texts have been received from Saudi Arabia.

4. As at May 2024, the Authority's online database contains information on or the texts of relevant national legislation received from the following 39 States: Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, China, the Cook Islands, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Guyana, India, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the Sudan, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia. It also contains information received from the Pacific Community. The database contains further information and the texts of national laws, regulations and administrative measures submitted by the aforementioned member and observer States of the Authority.¹ It will continue to be updated upon receipt of new information. A comparative study on national legislation concerning deep-seabed mining is also available on the database.²

5. The Council is invited to take note of the present report.

¹ <https://www.isa.org.jm/national-legislation-database/>

² https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Comparative_Study_NL.pdf.