



Assembly

Advance Unedited Version
21 June 2024

English only

Twenty-ninth session

Kingston, 29 July-2 August 2024

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

Report on the review of the high-level action plan for the extended period 2019–2025 for alignment with the extension of the strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2025

Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the extended high-level action plan for the Authority for the period 2019-2025

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its twenty-fourth session, the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority adopted the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023, providing, inter alia, a uniform basis for the strengthening of existing working practices of the Authority (see ISBA/24/A/10). In order for the Authority to meet those objectives, the Assembly adopted during its twenty-fifth session, a high-level action plan providing the linkage between the Authority's strategic plan and the work of the various organs of the Authority (see ISBA/25/A/15).
2. The Assembly recognized that the operative period of the strategic plan and associate high-level action plan would be five years and emphasized the importance of ensuring that both was kept under regular review and the results monitored for effectiveness. The Assembly subsequently requested the Secretary-General to, inter alia, regularly inform members of the Authority on progress with respect to their implementation.
3. With the term of the strategic plan coming to an end, preparatory work was undertaken by the secretariat in January 2023 to develop a revised strategic plan for the period 2024–2028 for consideration by the Assembly as its twenty-eighth session. This preparatory work was further informed by the findings of an analysis of the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2019–2023 undertaken by a consultant.

* ISBA/29/A/L.1

4. The Secretary-General presented a report on the implementation of the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023¹ and on the proposed draft strategic plan for the period 2024–2028². The Assembly, during its 203rd and 2026th meetings, considered the report. Several delegations noted that the strategic plan and high-level action plan for 2019–2023 had significantly contributed to advancing the implementation of the mandate of the Authority while ensuring coordination among the different organs. Several delegations welcomed the draft strategic plan, noting that it provided continuity in the work of the Authority at a time when important developments were taking place in relation to the legal regime of the Area and the implementation of the evolutionary approach. It was noted that the Authority was still engaged in the preparatory phase of its mandate, based on the provisions of the 1994 Agreement, that is, the phase involving the development of the draft regulations on exploitation and the period before the approval of the first plan of work for exploitation.

5. Eventually, the Assembly decided, at its 206th meeting, to extend the current strategic plan (for the period 2019–2023) by two years and requested the Secretary-General to review the high-level action plan for 2019–2023 with a view to extending it in line with the extension of the strategic plan.³

6. Building on the content and structure of the first high-level action plan for the period 2019–2023, which was designed to be action-oriented, and placed emphasis on the highest priorities identified by member States for the Authority through the strategic plan for the period 2019–2023, an extended high-level action plan is now proposed for consideration to the Assembly. This extended high-level action plan has not been revised in substance. Only some of the proposed timeframes identified initially for completion of agreed outputs have been updated, taking into consideration the progress in the implementation of the activities since 2019 as reported by the different organs of the Authority. The plan as revised appears in annex I to the present document and is presented for consideration by the Assembly.

7. The Assembly is invited to consider, with a view to adoption, the extended high-level plan for the Authority for the period 2019–2025 as contained in annex I to the present document accessible at: <https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ISBA-29-A-8-Annex-1.pdf>.

¹ See ISBA/28/A/11

² See ISBA/28/A/7.

³ See ISBA/28/A/16.