



Council

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Agenda item 9

**Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications
for a plan of work for exploration**

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides by the Earth System Science Organization-Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 18 January 2024, an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides along the Carlsberg Ridge in the Indian Ocean was submitted to the Secretary-General of the Authority in accordance with the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area¹ by the Earth System Science Organization-Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India,

Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 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 1982,² the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,³ including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,

¹ ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1, annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, of 1 February 2011,

1. *Takes note* of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides by the Earth System Science Organization-Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India,⁴ in particular paragraphs 40 to 44 thereof;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by the Earth System Science Organization-Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India;

3. *Requests* that the Secretary-General of the Authority issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the form of a contract between the Authority and the Earth System Science Organization-Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India, in accordance with the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area.

⁴ ISBA/29/C/14.