



Assembly

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Statement by the President on the work of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority at its thirtieth session

1. The thirtieth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was held in Kingston from 21 to 25 July 2025, immediately after the closing of the Council session on 21 July.

I. Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 216th meeting, on 21 July, the Assembly adopted the agenda of its thirtieth session ([ISBA/30/A/1](#)).

3. At the opening of the session, the Special Envoy of the President of France for the Third United Nations Ocean Conference and Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues, Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, delivered remarks on the Conference, which was co-hosted by France and Costa Rica in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025. He stated that the abyss was not for sale and proposed that a major scientific forum, “Magic Abyssal 2026”, be organized in Kingston in 2026. The delegation of China made a general statement on commitment to multilateralism to put an end to unilateral actions and maintain a fair and just international order, underscoring that the international seabed regime was a cornerstone of the law of the sea and of multilateralism, which it was the shared responsibility and sacred mission of the international community to safeguard. The delegation of the Russian Federation delivered a statement in which it reiterated that all activities in the Area were subordinate to the principle of the common heritage of humankind and that unilateral steps were in violation of the legal regime under Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and undermined the mandate of the Authority.

II. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

4. At the 216th meeting, Dwight Gardiner (Antigua and Barbuda) was elected President, by acclamation.

5. At the same meeting, the representatives of Fiji (Asia-Pacific States), Ghana (African States) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Western European and other States) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for the thirtieth session, by acclamation.



III. Appointment and report of the Credentials Committee

6. At its 216th meeting, the Assembly appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of the following eight members: Bahamas (The), Dominican Republic, Ireland, Kuwait, Nauru, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

7. The Credentials Committee met on 23 July and elected Miguel Balaguer (Dominican Republic) as its Chair. The Committee examined the credentials of representatives participating in the thirtieth session.

8. At the 223rd meeting, on 25 July, the Chair of the Credentials Committee presented the report of the Committee ([ISBA/30/A/10](#)). At the same meeting, the report was approved by the Assembly (see [ISBA/30/A/12](#)).

IV. Election to fill vacancies on the Finance Committee

9. At its 216th meeting, the Assembly elected, by acclamation, Lee-Anne Yarr (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for the remainder of the term of Christopher Hilton (United Kingdom), Yedla Umasankar (India) for the remainder of the term of Kajal Bhat (India) and Sheikh Mahmudul Hassan (Bangladesh) for the remainder of the term of Khurshed Alam (Bangladesh), respectively, for terms ending on 31 December 2027 (see [ISBA/30/A/3](#), [ISBA/30/A/9](#) and [ISBA/30/A/6](#)).

V. Requests for observer status in the Assembly

10. At its 216th meeting, in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (d), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly considered four applications for observer status from the following applicants: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission ([ISBA/30/A/INF/6](#)), International Copper Study Group ([ISBA/30/A/INF/7](#)), International Lead and Zinc Study Group ([ISBA/30/A/INF/8](#)) and International Nickel Study Group ([ISBA/30/A/INF/9](#)). The Assembly granted observer status to all applicants.

11. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the Authority (see [ISBA/25/A/16](#)), the Assembly considered nine applications for observer status from the following applicants: International Manganese Institute ([ISBA/30/A/INF/1](#)), Cobalt Institute ([ISBA/30/A/INF/2](#)), Earth Law Center ([ISBA/30/A/INF/3](#)), Ocean and Us ([ISBA/30/A/INF/4](#)), Kōrero o te Ōrau ([ISBA/30/A/INF/5](#)), China Oceanic Development Foundation ([ISBA/30/A/INF/10](#)), World Resources Institute ([ISBA/30/A/INF/11](#)), Seafloor Mineral Developers Association ([ISBA/30/A/INF/12](#)) and Oceano Azul Foundation ([ISBA/30/A/INF/13](#)). The Assembly granted observer status to all applicants except the Seafloor Mineral Developers Association.

12. At its 225th meeting, on 25 July, following consultations facilitated by the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands regarding the request for observer status submitted by the Seafloor Mineral Developers Association pursuant to rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly decided to defer its consideration to the next session. It was agreed that contractors could participate as observers in their individual capacity and not be treated differently from other stakeholders. Contractors were invited to submit requests for observer status to be granted by the Assembly. For that purpose, the Assembly requested that the secretariat prepare guidelines for observer status of contractors with the Authority, including a comparison with the rules of procedure of other intergovernmental

organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, to assist in the consideration of applications for observer status to be submitted by contractors from 2026. The Assembly also decided to include the item in its agenda for the next session and that it was unnecessary to amend the Assembly's rules of procedure.

VI. Annual report of the Secretary-General

13. At the 218th meeting, on 22 July, the Secretary-General presented her annual report submitted in accordance with article 166, paragraph 4, of the Convention ([ISBA/30/A/2](#)). Under the same agenda item, she reported on the restructuring of the secretariat (see [ISBA/30/A/7/Rev.1](#)) and the implementation of the action plan for marine scientific research in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (see [ISBA/30/A/4](#)).

14. During the 218th and 221st to 223rd meetings, on 22, 24 and 25 July, the Assembly held a general debate on the reports of the Secretary-General. One regional group, 43 members of the Authority and 11 observers made statements. These included statements by the President of Palau, Surangel S. Whipps Jr., and the Minister of the Environment of Panama, Juan Carlos Navarro.

15. Most delegations commended the Secretary-General for her comprehensive first annual report to the Assembly, occurring in a global context marked by profound changes, challenges and interests for strategic minerals. Most delegations welcomed her commitment to enhancing the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the secretariat.

16. Most delegations reaffirmed their attachment to multilateralism and the regime of the common heritage of humankind, which represents the legal and moral compass of the Authority, and their unwavering support for the Authority at a critical juncture in the governance of the Area and its resources.

17. Most delegations welcomed the considerable progress made by the Council during the thirtieth session regarding the draft regulations on exploitation and underscored the importance of finalizing a robust and enforceable framework in a timely and realistic manner to deliver on the Authority's regulatory mandate. Reference was made to the need for serious consideration of the potential consequences if the Authority remains unable to adopt regulations on exploitation.

18. Most delegations welcomed the progress made in marine scientific research, capacity-building and the operationalization of the Enterprise, as these reflect the Authority's dual mandate as both a regulator and a promoter of equitable participation in the Area's resources, with decisions informed by solid scientific information.

19. Most delegations welcomed the significant progress made in marine scientific research, particularly developments achieved through partnerships. These included the expansion and enhanced accessibility of environmental data hosted by DeepData, which were integrated into the Ocean Data and Information System coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in May 2025. Delegations also expressed appreciation for collaborative scientific initiatives such as the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative, which launched a second call in March 2025, with support from Ireland, aimed at describing approximately 100 new species by 2026. Broad support was expressed for the Authority's role as a convener and catalyst in promoting scientific knowledge generation, capacity-building and technology transfer for developing States. The contributions of contractors in generating and advancing scientific knowledge were also acknowledged. Reference was made to the workshop on advanced technologies for the protection and sustainable use of the Area,

co-organized with Kobe University in June 2025, which was seen as a valuable forum for knowledge exchange. Delegations emphasized the importance of establishing environmental threshold values under the leadership of the Legal and Technical Commission, with input from a global group of experts. Further reference was made to the Deep-sea Biobank Initiative, supported by the Republic of Korea, which is aimed at facilitating global access to deep-sea biological samples and genetic data from the Area for the benefit of all humankind. Delegations encouraged the development of standard operating procedures for the collection, processing and dissemination of such samples and data, ensuring that the process remains timely, inclusive and transparent.

20. Several delegations recalled that the full operationalization of the Enterprise remained a strategic imperative and the principal mechanism for ensuring the participation of developing States in activities in the Area.

21. Several delegations welcomed the growing number of permanent missions to the Authority and encouraged member States that had not yet become a party to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention (1994 Agreement) to do so, emphasizing that this would provide an important signal of trust in multilateralism and in the architecture set up by the Convention for the governance of the common heritage of humankind. Several delegations took note of the urgent need for coastal States to fulfil their obligation under article 84 of the Convention.

22. Several delegations noted with appreciation the Authority's increased engagement with developing States, including the Deep Dive e-learning platform, the launch of scientific research activities under the International Seabed Authority-China Joint Training and Research Centre and the creation of the African Academy for Deep Sea Diplomacy in Cameroon.

23. Several delegations took note of the restructuring of the secretariat and sought clarification on the balance between established staff and consultants while encouraging efforts to stabilize staffing and ensure a well-resourced Authority through recruitment for authorized posts and continued evaluation of staffing needs in accordance with the Authority's work, particularly in anticipation of future regulatory responsibilities. Some delegations stressed that transparency should be consolidated as a cross-cutting principle in all functions of the secretariat and that institutional management should be inspired by the best practices of intergovernmental organizations, with an organizational culture based on merit, inclusion, gender balance and geographical diversity.

24. Most delegations commended efforts on gender parity, particularly through the pilot phase of the See Her Exceed mentorship programme, and called upon Member States and stakeholders to support the initiative and ensure its long-term outcomes.

25. Several delegations commented on the financial sustainability of the Authority and commended the cost recovery mechanism applied to contractors, and urged all member States to honour their financial obligations. They also emphasized the critical role of the voluntary trust funds in supporting the participation of developing States and that of members of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee from developing States.

26. Most delegations underscored the imperative for a robust regulatory framework that ensures the protection of the global ocean commons, both an environmental obligation and a cultural necessity owing to interconnectedness with the oceans for many Pacific cultures. While supporting the need for robust environmental safeguards and science-based decision-making, several delegations cautioned against indefinite blanket measures that might inadvertently limit the rights of developing States.

27. Most delegations welcomed capacity-building initiatives and programmes as a core aspect of the work of the Authority. Reference was made to the first International Seabed Authority-Caribbean Community workshop on developing an action plan for capacity-building in deep-sea mining research, which was hosted by Antigua and Barbuda in November 2024. Reference was also made to the International Seabed Authority-China Joint Training and Research Centre, which had already trained over 100 students from more than 40 countries. Many delegations encouraged further funding for the International Seabed Authority Partnership Fund and for the Authority's other capacity-building tools and programmes. Reference was also made to the project "Women in Blue: training opportunities in ocean science", which would culminate in dispatching research crews aboard the National Research Council of Italy vessel *Gaia Blu* from 1 to 7 August 2025. The secretariat was encouraged to take forward the network of national focal points for capacity development and the International Seabed Authority Capacity Development Alumni Network as key to building a strong community of experts.

28. With regard to capacity development and in response to concerns from some member States, the Secretary-General addressed both the Authority's general training initiatives and the distinct contractors' training programme, which was designed under the Convention for the benefit of developing member States. The Secretary-General recalled that, in accordance with the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration ([ISBA/19/LTC/14/Rev.1](#)), the essential nature of the contractors' training programme was to provide personnel from developing States with direct, hands-on participation in all facets of marine exploration, including at-sea training and access to advanced laboratories. Such training programmes may be revised and developed from time to time as necessary by mutual agreement. On this basis, the Secretary-General explained her decision to place under review the use of the secretariat's Deep Dive and national expert deployment programmes by contractors to fulfil their training obligations. She clarified her belief that contractors must develop their own tailored programmes in consultation with the secretariat, with the needs of developing member States in mind. She reported that the secretariat had already successfully renegotiated new training plans with most of the affected contractors. Furthermore, she clarified that, while these programmes were no longer options for contractors, platforms such as the Deep Dive e-learning platform would continue to be offered free of charge directly to candidates from developing member States. As for the national expert deployment programme, it remains an option for projects under the Partnership Fund or those financed by member States. Guided by experience, the focus of capacity development is now broadening to strategically strengthen the capacity of national institutions, aiming for a long-term, multiplier effect that extends beyond individual expertise.

29. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General and requested her to continue her efforts to mobilize the resources and partnerships necessary for advancing the implementation of the strategic research priorities under the action plan. The Assembly encouraged all members of the Authority, other States, relevant international organizations, academic, scientific and technical institutions, philanthropic organizations, corporations and individuals to contribute to the implementation of the action plan.

30. With regard to the reporting period, it was agreed that an addendum to the report, with updates, would be prepared closer to its consideration by the Assembly in 2026 and that the next report would cover activities carried out over the period from 1 April to 31 March 2026. The Secretary-General also confirmed that the months of May, June and July 2024 would be reported on in an addendum to the annual report. It was agreed that the next report of the Secretary-General would contain a list of contractors

at risk of non-compliance, if any had been identified by the Legal and Technical Commission.

VII. Periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention

31. During the twenty-eighth session, the Assembly included the periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention as an item on the agenda of its twenty-ninth session, with a view to adopting a decision thereon (see [ISBA/28/A/16](#)). During the twenty-ninth session, in light of the divergence of views that had been expressed, the Assembly decided to defer its consideration of the question of the periodic review to the thirtieth session.

32. At its 224th meeting, on 25 July, the Assembly considered the second periodic review under article 154 of the Convention since its establishment on the basis of the draft decision of the Assembly on the second periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention, with terms of reference for the review in its annex ([ISBA/30/A/L.2](#)).

33. Divergent views continued to be expressed on the conduct of the periodic review and the burden on resources that it places at a time when efforts are geared towards the adoption of regulations on exploitation. Some favoured the review to be conducted more appropriately after the adoption of the regulations and the assessment of their content on the manner in which the regime would operate. In contrast, while noting that the undertaking of the periodic review was not conditional on the workload of the Authority, and ascertaining the existence of resources for this, several delegations expressed support for the conduct of the review, which would have built on the process and outcomes of the first periodic review.

34. The Assembly did not reach consensus on the proposal for conducting the periodic review, and decided to defer its consideration of the question to the thirty-first session.

VIII. Report of the interim Director General of the Enterprise

35. The Assembly welcomed the report of the interim Director General of the Enterprise ([ISBA/30/A/5-ISBA/30/C/8](#)), as orally amended, which provided details of the Enterprise's activities during the reporting period. In general, Member States expressed appreciation for the progress made towards the eventual independent functioning of the Enterprise, particularly in the areas of governance, operational planning and outreach.

36. Delegations commended the interim Director General for actively participating in the negotiations on the draft regulations on exploitation. Several delegations highlighted the importance of ensuring that the Enterprise's unique role and legal framework are properly reflected in the regulations, particularly concerning its status compared with private contractors.

37. Delegations also noted with appreciation the efforts of the interim Director General regarding the assessment of technological developments relevant to activities in the Area, in particular technology relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and highlighted the side event co-hosted by the Enterprise and Impossible Metals, Inc., on artificial intelligence-driven robotics technology for the environmentally sustainable collection of nodules.

38. There was significant interest in the section of the report on funding, especially the progress made in exploring opportunities for joint ventures. Delegations took note of the statement of interest from Impossible Metals, Inc. Many emphasized that developing “sound commercial principles” for such ventures was a crucial next step. Delegations also welcomed the ongoing dialogue with sponsoring States and contractors, recognizing that such collaboration was vital for the Enterprise’s future financial stability.

39. Delegations also expressed support for the letter of cooperation with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and the resulting scholarship awarded to a research assistant. Delegations viewed this as a concrete example of the Enterprise’s commitment to capacity-building, particularly for developing States, and encouraged similar partnerships.

40. Some delegations reiterated concerns about the uncertainty surrounding the adoption of regulations on exploitation. They noted that such uncertainty was a significant obstacle for potential partners and could hinder the Enterprise’s ability to secure joint ventures and begin independent operations. The interim Director General recalled paragraph 22 of his report and assured delegations that he would continue to work with sponsoring States, contractors and other entities to conclude a joint venture arrangement with the Enterprise, in accordance with section 2, paragraph 2, of the annex to the 1994 Agreement, as it was one of the triggers that would result in the independent functioning of the Enterprise. He emphasized, however, that the conclusion and adoption of regulations on exploitation rested with the Council, calling on delegations to work towards that objective in keeping with the timeline set by the Council.

41. The Assembly’s response was supportive and the foundational work done by the interim Director General was recognized. The feedback reinforced the need for a clear and stable regulatory framework to enable the Enterprise to fulfil its mandate of carrying out deep-seabed mining activities and facilitating the participation of developing States.

IX. Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Authority

42. The Assembly held a one-day special event at its 219th and 220th meetings, on 23 July, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Authority. In his opening address, the President of the Assembly underscored the crucial role of the Authority in shaping the future of ocean governance and multilateralism in keeping with its mandate.

43. The special session was also a time to reflect on current challenges for the Authority in the discharge of its mandate under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement, as well as an opportunity for stakeholders to proffer suggestions on the way forward for the next phase of the work of the Authority.

44. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Kamina Smith, reiterated the unwavering support of the host country to the Authority, while highlighting its importance, especially for large ocean developing States.

45. In a statement, the President of Palau reflected on what had been achieved, what remained to be done and the vision that had brought the Authority into existence, honouring the legacies of Arvid Pardo and Elisabeth Mann Borgese.

46. The Secretary-General of the Authority, evoking the words of Mr. Pardo in 1967, recalled the importance of the Authority in preventing the decision of a few from affecting the status of the Area as the common heritage of all humankind.

47. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was delivered by the valedictorian of St. George's School in Kingston, Henrique Hibbert, in which the Secretary-General noted that the Authority was a cornerstone in the governance of the ocean commons.

48. In a video message, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Elinor Hammar skjöld, underscored the pivotal role of the Authority in implementing the Part XI legal regime and in achieving the objectives of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

49. In a video message, the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Tomas Heidar, reflected on the important role of the Seabed Disputes Chamber, as demonstrated by the advisory opinion of 2011 clarifying the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring entities with respect to activities in the Area.

50. In a video statement, the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Tommy Koh, highlighted the dangers of the polarization of views between the pros and cons of exploitation, together with challenges presented by the submission by a subsidiary of The Metals Company of an application for a recovery permit with the authorities of the United States of America for mining in the Area while the Authority is vested with the exclusive mandate to regulate and approve the exploitation of minerals in the Area. He cautioned that the Authority had yet to adopt the regulations on exploitation and that The Metals Company's application was a reminder to expedite that process and find compromises without which Mr. Pardo's vision of harvesting the common heritage of humankind for the benefit of all countries, especially developing countries, would remain a dream.

51. Another key highlight of the proceeding was the panel on historic reflections and architecture for shaping the future, composed of former Presidents of the Assembly, which was testament to the continuity of focus and discharge of the Authority's mandate. The panel was composed of Olav Myklebust (Norway, President in 2005), Sainivalati S. Navoti (Fiji, President in 2006), Vladimir Polenov (Russian Federation, President in 2013) and Eugénio João Muianga (Mozambique, President in 2017), with a message from Helmut Türk, (Austria, President in 2015). It was moderated by Philomène Verlaan (Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea). Panellists reflected on achievements during their presidencies in the discharge of the Authority's mandate.

52. The Assembly welcomed the synthesis and reflections of the Deep Sea Dialogues, which focused on scientific, economic and legal aspects of the Authority's mandate. The panel was composed of Diva Amon (University of California, Santa Barbara), Pradeep Singh (Oceano Azul Foundation) and Rashid Sumaila (University of British Columbia) and was moderated by the Global Ocean Policy Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Minna Epps.

53. At its 220th meeting, the Assembly considered and adopted a decision on the designation of 1 November as the International Day of the Deep Seabed ([ISBA/30/A/13](#)), as proposed by the delegations of Fiji, Jamaica, Malta and Singapore. The decision was presented as a gift for the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary to promote the legal regime for the common heritage of humankind and the work of the Authority.

54. Delegations renewed their commitment to the international legal order and the Authority's mandate and their unwavering support for the Authority to ensure that multilateralism will continue to lead the way forward. While the Convention promotes

stability of the law and maintenance of international peace and security, it anchors the Authority's mandate entrusted with the governance of the common heritage of humankind. Delegations commented that the Convention either embodied or reflected customary international law. They underscored that the Authority was at a critical juncture, facing unforeseen challenges due to recent initiatives to proceed with unilateral mining outside the legal framework of the Part XI legal regime. Such unilateral acts are not allowed under the Convention and international law. Article 137 of the Convention prohibits the appropriation of the Area or its resources by any State or natural or juridical person. Delegations commented that these rules were also part of customary international law and thus also binding upon third States.

55. Delegations paid tribute to the invaluable contributions made by the past three Secretary-Generals.

56. Delegations widely acknowledged the steadfast support from the host country of the Authority.

57. Delegations called for future decisions to continue to promote the orderly development of the common heritage of humankind and to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment. Decisions must continue to be guided by sufficient and sound scientific knowledge for the adoption in a timely manner of a robust regulatory regime that ensures the effective protection of the marine environment, balances commercial opportunity and allows for benefits from such opportunities to be shared equitably with humanity as a whole, with the meaningful participation of developing States, including the operationalization of the Enterprise, and capacity-building. Delegations pledged that the Authority continues to be guided by the same spirit of solidarity, sustainability and shared responsibility that gave rise to its founding, following the introduction by Mr. Pardo of the idea of the principle of the common heritage of humankind.

X. Report and recommendations of the Finance Committee

58. At its 217th meeting, on 22 July, the Assembly considered and took note of the report of the Finance Committee ([ISBA/30/A/8-ISBA/30/C/12](#)). Delegations took note of the status of the various funds and commended member States and other stakeholders for donations made to them, while urging others to do the same.

59. Delegations commended the Finance Committee for its work, while also noting its increasing workload, and suggested allocating additional days for future formal meetings and organizing more informal webinars. Some delegations requested clarification on the recent restructuring of the secretariat and on reclassification, as well as potential implications, liabilities and costs in the future, including those that may result from ongoing litigation. With respect to the development of rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area, some delegations reiterated that the ongoing development of the Common Heritage Fund should not be the only mechanism for the purpose of the equitable sharing of benefits, and encouraged the Committee to explore other options. In providing clarification and background information on the carefully drafted request for the development of that option, which provides the maximum flexibility and does not represent a decision, the Chair of the Committee recalled that a response to avert unilateralism lay in making progress and taking decisions on recommendations.

60. The Assembly adopted a decision relating to financial and budgetary matters ([ISBA/30/A/11](#)).

XI. Statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the thirtieth session

61. At its 217th meeting, the Assembly took note of the statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the thirtieth session ([ISBA/30/C/5](#) and [ISBA/30/C/5/Add.1](#)).

XII. Need for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment: scope and parameters

62. On 21 July, a debate on the need for a general policy of the Authority for the protection of the marine environment took place in connection with the adoption of the agenda of the Assembly. The delegation of Chile, as proponent of the concept note and of a proposal to initiate an informal intersessional dialogue aimed at advancing discussions on a general policy for the preservation and protection of the marine environment, held informal consultations during the week.

63. At the 224th meeting, divergent views were expressed on the proposal. Several delegations supported the proposal to initiate a dialogue and create a space and process for it, as such a policy could guide and ensure consistency in decision-making across the Authority's organs and help to align its work with other relevant international instruments and processes. Several delegations recalled procedural aspects, the need for consistency with the Part XI regime and for not undermining the functions entrusted to the Council and the Legal and Technical Commission, and the need for complementing and not impeding but maintaining the momentum for the development of the regulations on exploitation.

64. The Assembly did not reach consensus on the proposal and decided not to defer the question to the next session.

XIII. Other matters

65. At the 224th meeting, the delegation of Tonga, as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, delivered a statement on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum members participating in the Assembly, in which they referred to a landmark dialogue with a high-level *talanoa* on deep-sea minerals as a critical step in facilitating open and inclusive discussion on deep-sea minerals in the context of regional cooperation, recognizing both the diversity of positions and the value of discussing strong governance frameworks and support for a regional repository to consolidate and address any gaps in knowledge. They called for investment in research, technology and capacity-building programmes for the benefit of developing States.

XIV. Dates of the next session of the Assembly

66. The thirty-first session of the Assembly will be held in Kingston from 27 to 31 July 2026. It will be the turn of the Group of Western European and other States to nominate a candidate for the presidency of the Assembly.

XV. Closing of the session

67. After observing a minute of silence at the end of the 224th meeting, the President closed the session.
