



COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY  
INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK<sup>1</sup>, v. 17 February 2026.  
FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, 9-20 March 2026.<sup>2</sup>

WEEK 1 (9-13 March 2026)

| Date                | Time         | Agenda Item   |
|---------------------|--------------|---|
| Monday 9 March 2026 | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 1</u>: Opening of the session.</li> <li>• <u>Item 2</u>: Adoption of the agenda.</li> <li>• <u>Item 3</u>: Election of the President.</li> <li>• <u>Item 4</u>: Election of the Vice-Presidents.</li> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the Further Revised Consolidated Text of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.</li> <li>- Presentation of the indicative list of outstanding issues and examination by the Council.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|                     | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.</li> </ul> <p><i>Regulatory. <b>Prevention of Corruption (Friends of the President, Netherlands)</b>. Draft regulations 40 – 1 hour.</i></p> <p><i>Regulatory. <b>Seabed Mining Register (Friends of the President, India)</b>. Draft regulations 92 – 1 hour.</i></p> <p><i>Regulatory. <b>Non-compliance Notice, Suspension and Termination of the Contract (Friends of the President, Netherlands)</b>. Draft regulation 103 – 1 hour.</i></p>   |

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Provisional Agenda of the Council ([ISBA/31/C/L.1](#)) and the indicative list of outstanding issues ([ISBA/30/C/18](#), paragraph 6).

<sup>2</sup> Friday, 20 March 2026, is an official holiday (Eid al-Fitr), observed by the ISA ([ISBA/ST/IC/2025/8](#)).

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Council decision [ISBA/30/C/18](#), paragraph 7.

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|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Tuesday 10 March 2026   | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 11:</b> Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Environmental. <b>Legal status of REMPs (Informal Working Group, Netherlands), Draft regulation 44 bis (and draft regulations 7, 12, 14 and 15) – 1 hour.</b></i></li> <li><i>Environmental. <b>Environmental Goals and Objectives (Friends of the President, Germany). Draft regulation 44 ter – 1 hour.</b></i></li> <li><i>Environmental. <b>Environmental Management and Monitoring (Informal Working Group, Norway). Draft regulations 49-52 – 1 hour.</b></i></li> </ul> |
|                         | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 11:</b> Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Environmental. <b>Protection of Submarine Cables (Friends of the President, Singapore). Draft regulations 31 and 31 bis – 1 hour.</b></i></li> <li><i>Environmental. <b>Environmental Compensation Fund (Friends of the President, Mexico). Section 4 (draft regulation 54-56) – 1 hour.</b></i></li> <li><i>Environmental. <b>Closure Plans (Informal Working Group, Fiji). Draft regulations 59-61 and Annex VIII – 1 hour.</b></i></li> </ul>                               |
| Wednesday 11 March 2026 | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 11:</b> Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Financial. <b>Financial System. Presentation on the fiscal model by IGF – 1 hour.</b></i></li> <li><i>Financial. <b>Equalization Measure (Informal Working Group, Australia). Draft regulation 64 bis and draft equalisation standard – 1 hour.</b></i></li> <li><i>Financial. <b>Payment system and Review of Payment Mechanism (Friends of the President, Canada). Draft regulations 81-82, Draft Standard and Guidelines and Schedule – 1 hour.</b></i></li> </ul>          |
|                         | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 11:</b> Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Financial. <b>Financial Incentives. Draft regulation 63.</b></i></li> <li><i>Financial. <b>Environmental Externalities in Royalty System Design. Draft regulation 64 ter.</b></i></li> <li><i>Financial. <b>Transfer Profit Share. Draft regulation 65 (and draft regulation 23, paragraph 6 bis).</b></i></li> <li><i>Financial. <b>Monopolization. Draft regulations 23, 107 and Schedule.</b></i></li> </ul>  |

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| Thursday 12 March 2026 | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Regulatory. <b>Effective Control (Informal Working Group, Chile, Costa Rica).</b></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Schedule and definition – 1.5 hours.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Draft regulations 5-7, 13, 21, 24, 24bis, 40, Annex I – 1.5 hours.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
|                        | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Governance. <b>Rights and Interests of Coastal States (Informal Working Group, Portugal, Singapore).</b> Draft regulations 4, 4bis and 93bis – 1.5 hours.</i></li> <li><i>Governance. <b>Underwater Cultural Heritage (Informal Working Group, Brazil, Greece, Micronesia).</b> Draft regulations 35 and 35 Alt – 1.5 hours.</i></li> </ul>  |
| Friday 13 March 2026   | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Regulatory. <b>ICE Mechanism and Establishment of the Compliance Committee (Informal Working Group, Norway).</b></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Part XI and in particular draft regulation 95 bis.</i></li> <li>- <i>Draft decision of the Council on the Compliance Committee.</i></li> <li>- <i>Draft Rules of Procedure and draft Compliance Strategy for the Compliance Committee.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|                        | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Regulatory. <b>ICE Mechanism and Establishment of the Compliance Committee. Part XI.</b></i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections.</b> Draft regulations 96-101.</i></li> </ul>  |

**WEEK 2 (16-20 March 2026)**

| Date                  | Time         | Agenda Item   |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| Monday 16 March 2026  | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 7</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration.</li> <li>• <u>Item 13</u>: Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at the first part of its thirty-first session.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preliminary considerations on Council decision ISBA/30/C/19.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Item 15</u>: Report of the Secretary-General concerning the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft decision of the Council on the election and establishment of the Economic Planning Commission.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Item 19</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the engagement and cooperation with BBNJ bodies and processes.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft decision of the Council on engagement with bodies and processes under the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/2 (AUV)</a>, Annex).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|                       | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Environmental. <b>Test Mining and Pilot Mining (Informal Working Group, Belgium, China, Germany)</b>, Draft regulation 48ter (and draft regulations 7,11,12,13,46,48, 48 bis, Annex VII and Schedule) – 2 hours.</i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Modification of a Plan of Work (Friends of the President, U.K.)</b>. Draft regulation 57 – 1 hour.</i></li> </ul>  |
| Tuesday 17 March 2026 | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Annexes and Schedule.</i></li> </ul>   |
|                       | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Annexes and Schedule.</i></li> </ul>   |

| Date                    | Time         | Agenda Item   |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Wednesday 18 March 2026 | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Environmental. <b>Conditions for beginning Exploitation of the Area.</b> Draft regulation 2(3).</i></li> <br/> <li><i>Environmental. <b>Definition of "Incident" and "Notifiable Event".</b> Schedule.</i></li> <br/> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Treatment of the Enterprise and of Joint Ventures.</b> Draft regulation 19 and Schedule.</i></li> <br/> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Parent Company Liability.</b> Draft regulations 23, paragraph 5(d), 24, Annex XI and Schedule.</i></li> </ul>                |
|                         | 3 – 6 pm     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 5</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council.</li> <li>• <u>Item 9</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for a plan of work for exploration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft decision relating to an application for a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules by Impossible Metals Bahrain W.L.L.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Item 10</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul> |
| Thursday 19 March 2026  | 10 am – 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.<br/><i>Regulatory. <b>Resources Covered by the Regulations.</b> Preamble.</i></li> <br/> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Confidential Information and Procedures to Ensure Confidentiality.</b> Draft regulations 89-91.</i></li> <br/> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Whistleblowing Protections.</b> Draft regulation 101bis.</i></li> <br/> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Review of the Regulations.</b> Draft regulation 107.</i></li> </ul>   |

<sup>4</sup> To be taken up following consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission.

<sup>5</sup> To be taken up following consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission.

| Date  | Time     | Agenda Item  |
|---|----------|--|
|   | 3 – 6 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of Standard and Guidelines.</li> <li>- Review of the progress on the draft regulations.</li> <li>- Agreement on necessary intersessional work.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Adoption of draft decisions (as required).</li> <li>• End of the first part of the thirty-first session.</li> </ul> |
| Friday 20 March 2026<br><b>Official holiday<sup>6</sup></b> |          |  |

17 February 2026.

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<sup>6</sup> Friday, 20 March 2026, is an official holiday (Eid al-Fitr), observed by the ISA ([ISBA/ST/IC/2025/8](#)).