



COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK¹, v. 8 March 2026.
FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, 9-20 March 2026.²

WEEK 1 (9-13 March 2026)

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Monday 9 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 1</u>: Opening of the session. • <u>Item 2</u>: Adoption of the agenda. • <u>Item 3</u>: Election of the President. • <u>Item 4</u>: Election of the Vice-Presidents. • <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"> - Presentation of the Further Revised Consolidated Text of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (ISBA/31/C/CRP.1. Rev 2 – Word/PDF; briefing note -PDF).³ - Presentation of the indicative list of outstanding issues and examination by the Council (ISBA/31/C/CRP.4).⁴
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <p><i>Regulatory. Prevention of Corruption (Friends of the President, Netherlands). Draft regulations 40 – 1 hour.</i></p> <p><i>Regulatory. Seabed Mining Register (Friends of the President, India). Draft regulations 92 – 1 hour.</i></p> <p><i>Regulatory. Non-compliance Notice, Suspension and Termination of the Contract (Friends of the President, Netherlands). Draft regulation 103 – 1 hour.</i></p>

¹ 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).

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

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

⁴ Pursuant to Council decision [ISBA/30/C/18](#), paragraph 7.

Tuesday 10 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Environmental. Reference to REMPs (Informal Working Group, Netherlands), Cross-cutting issues⁵ – 1 hour.</i> <i>Environmental. Environmental Goals and Objectives (Friends of the President, Germany). Draft regulation 44 ter – 1 hour.</i> <i>Environmental. Environmental Management and Monitoring (Informal Working Group, Norway). Draft regulations 49-52 – 1 hour.</i>
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Environmental. Protection of Submarine Cables (Friends of the President, Singapore). Draft regulations 31 and 31 bis – 1 hour.</i> <i>Environmental. Environmental Compensation Fund (Friends of the President, Mexico). Section 4 (draft regulation 54-56) – 1 hour.</i> <i>Environmental. Closure Plans (Informal Working Group, Fiji). Draft regulations 59-61 and Annex VIII – 1 hour.</i>
Wednesday 11 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Financial. Financial System. Presentation on the fiscal model by IGF – 1 hour.</i> <i>Financial. Equalization Measure (Informal Working Group, Australia). Draft regulation 64 bis and draft equalisation standard – 1 hour.</i> <i>Financial. Payment system and Review of Payment Mechanism (Friends of the President, Canada). Draft regulations 81-82, Draft Standard and Guidelines and Schedule – 1 hour.</i>
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Financial. Financial Incentives. Draft regulation 63.</i> <i>Financial. Environmental Externalities in Royalty System Design. Draft regulation 64 ter.</i> <i>Financial. Transfer Profit Share. Draft regulation 65 (and draft regulation 23, paragraph 6 bis).</i> <i>Financial. Monopolization. Draft regulations 23, 107 and Schedule.</i>

⁵ DR44bis will not be discussed nor was discussed by the intersessional working group.

Thursday 12 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Regulatory. Effective Control (Informal Working Group, Chile, Costa Rica).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Schedule and definition – 1.5 hours.</i> ➤ <i>Draft regulations 5-7, 13, 21, 24, 24bis, 40, Annex I – 1.5 hours.</i>
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Environmental. Test Mining and Pilot Mining (Informal Working Group, Belgium, China, Germany),</i> <i>Draft regulation 48ter (and draft regulations 7,11,12,13,46,48, 48 bis, Annex VII and Schedule) – 1.5 hours.</i> <i>Governance. Underwater Cultural Heritage (Informal Working Group, Brazil, Greece, Micronesia).</i> <i>Draft regulations 35 and 35 Alt – 1.5 hours.</i>
Friday 13 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Regulatory. ICE Mechanism and Establishment of the Compliance Committee (Informal Working Group, Norway).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Part XI and in particular draft regulation 95 bis.</i> - <i>Draft decision of the Council on the Establishment of the Compliance Committee (ISBA/31/C/CRP.5).</i> - <i>Draft Rules of Procedure and draft Compliance Strategy for the Compliance Committee.</i>
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Regulatory. ICE Mechanism and Establishment of the Compliance Committee. Part XI.</i> <i>Regulatory. Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections. Draft regulations 96-101.</i>

WEEK 2 (16-20 March 2026)

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Monday 16 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 7: 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 (ISBA/31/C/3). • Item 13: 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"> - Preliminary considerations on Council decision ISBA/30/C/19. • Item 15: Report of the Secretary-General concerning the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft decision of the Council on the election and establishment of the Economic Planning Commission. • Item 19: Report of the Secretary-General on the engagement and cooperation with BBNJ bodies and processes (ISBA/31/C/2 AUV). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft decision of the Council on engagement with bodies and processes under the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ISBA/31/C/2 (AUV), Annex).
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Governance. Rights and Interests of Coastal States (Informal Working Group, Portugal, Singapore). Draft regulations 4, 4bis and 93bis – 1.5 hours.</i> <i>Regulatory. Modification of a Plan of Work (Friends of the President, U.K.). Draft regulation 57 – 1.5 hour.</i>
Tuesday 17 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Annexes and Schedule.</i>
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Annexes and Schedule.</i>
Wednesday 18 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Environmental. Conditions for beginning Exploitation of the Area. Draft regulation 2(3).</i> <i>Environmental. Definition of "Incident" and "Notifiable Event". Schedule.</i> <i>Regulatory. Treatment of the Enterprise and of Joint Ventures. Draft regulation 19 and Schedule.</i> <i>Regulatory. Parent Company Liability. Draft regulations 23, paragraph 5(d), 24, Annex XI and Schedule.</i>

Date	Time	Agenda Item
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 5</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council. • <u>Item 10</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration.⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interoceanmetal Joint Organization. - JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya. - Government of the Republic of Korea. - China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association. - Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. - Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer.
Thursday 19 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Regulatory. Resources Covered by the Regulations. Preamble.</i> <i>Regulatory. Confidential Information and Procedures to Ensure Confidentiality. Draft regulations 89-91.</i> <i>Regulatory. Whistleblowing Protections. Draft regulation 101bis.</i> <i>Regulatory. Review of the Regulations. Draft regulation 107.</i>
	3 – 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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"> - Development of Standard and Guidelines. - Review of the progress on the draft regulations. - Agreement on necessary intersessional work. • Adoption of draft decisions (as required). • End of the first part of the thirty-first session.
Friday 20 March 2026 Official holiday⁷		

8 March 2026.

⁶ To be taken up following consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission.

⁷ Friday, 20 March 2026, is an official holiday (Eid al-Fitr), observed by the ISA ([ISBA/ST/IC/2025/8](#)).