



COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK¹, v. 10 March 2026.
FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, 9-20 March 2026.²

WEEK 1 (9-13 March 2026)

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Wednesday 11 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Financial. Financial System. Presentation on the fiscal model by IGF.</i> <i>Financial. Equalization Measure (Informal Working Group, Australia). Draft regulation 64 bis and draft equalisation standard.</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.</i>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: 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>
Thursday 12 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<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>

¹ Based on the Agenda of the Council ([ISBA/31/C/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](#)).

	2 pm – 3 pm Conference Room 4	<i>Informal meeting</i> of the Friends of the President group on Modification of a Plan of Work, DR57 (to prepare for Council discussion of this item scheduled for Monday 16 March 2026).
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<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), 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). Draft regulations 35 and 35 Alt – 1.5 hours.</i>
Friday 13 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<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 Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <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 Conference Room 1	<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 (ISBA/31/C/4). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary considerations on Council decision ISBA/30/C/19 (ISBA/31/C/4/Add.1). • 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). <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 Annex).
	2 pm – 3 pm Conference Room 4	<p><i>Informal meeting</i> <i>Regulatory. ICE Mechanism (Informal Working Group, Norway).</i></p>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<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> <p><i>Regulatory. Modification of a Plan of Work (Friends of the President, U.K.). Draft regulation 57 – 1.5 hour.</i></p>
Tuesday 17 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Annexes and Schedule.</i>
	2 pm – 3 pm Conference Room 4	<p><i>Informal meeting</i> <i>Regulatory. ICE Mechanism (Informal Working Group, Norway).</i></p>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Annexes and Schedule.</i>

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Wednesday 18 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Item 11</u>: 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>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<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.³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interoceanmetal Joint Organization. - JSC Yuzhmoregeologiya. - 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 Conference Room 1	<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 To be taken up following consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission.

Date	Time	Agenda Item
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<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 holiday⁴		

10 March 2026.

⁴ Friday, 20 March 2026, is an official holiday (Eid al-Fitr), observed by the ISA ([ISBA/ST/IC/2025/8](#)).