



COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY  
INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK<sup>1</sup>, v. 11 March 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
Thursday 12 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Financial. <b>Payment system and Review of Payment Mechanism (Friends of the President, Canada).</b> Draft regulations 81-82, Draft Standard and Guidelines and Schedule.</i></li> <li><i>Financial. <b>Monopolization.</b> Draft regulations 23, 107 and Schedule.</i></li> <li><i>Annexes.</i></li> </ul>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <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) – 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 Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <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 Establishment of the Compliance Committee (ISBA/31/C/CRP.5).</i></li> <li>- <i>Draft Rules of Procedure and draft Compliance Strategy for the Compliance Committee.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Regulatory. <b>Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections.</b> Draft regulations 96-101.</i></li> </ul>

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

**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"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 7</a>: 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 (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/3</a>).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Item 13</a>: 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 (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/4</a>).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preliminary considerations on Council decision <a href="#">ISBA/30/C/19</a> (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/4/Add.1</a>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Item 15</a>: 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>• <a href="#">Item 19</a>: Report of the Secretary-General on the engagement and cooperation with BBNJ bodies and processes (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/2</a>).               <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 Annex</a>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <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>Regulatory. <b>Modification of a Plan of Work (Friends of the President, U.K.)</b>. Draft regulation 57 – 1.5 hour.</i></li> </ul>
Tuesday 17 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Annexes and Schedule.</i></li> </ul>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Annexes and Schedule.</i></li> </ul>

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Wednesday 18 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Environmental. <b>Conditions for beginning Exploitation of the Area.</b> Draft regulation 2(3).</i></li> <li><i>Environmental. <b>Definition of "Incident" and "Notifiable Event".</b> Schedule.</i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Treatment of the Enterprise.</b> Draft regulation 19 and Schedule.</i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Parent Company Liability.</b> Draft regulations 23, paragraph 5(d), 24, Annex XI and Schedule.</i></li> </ul>
	2 – 3 pm Conference Room 4	<i>Informal meeting. <b>Effective Control (Informal Working Group, Chile, Costa Rica).</b></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Schedule and definition.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Draft regulations 5-7, 13, 21, 24, 24bis, 40, Annex I.</i></li> </ul>
	3 – 6 pm Conference Room 1	<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 10</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration.<sup>3</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/5</a>).</li> <li>- JSC Yuzhmoregeologiya (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/6</a>).</li> <li>- Government of the Republic of Korea (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/7</a>).</li> <li>- China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/8</a>).</li> <li>- Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/9</a>).</li> <li>- Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (<a href="#">ISBA/31/C/10</a>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Thursday 19 March 2026	10 am – 1 pm Conference Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <i>Regulatory. <b>Resources Covered by the Regulations.</b> Preamble.</i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Confidential Information and Procedures to Ensure Confidentiality.</b> Draft regulations 89-91.</i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Whistleblowing Protections.</b> Draft regulation 101bis.</i></li> <li><i>Regulatory. <b>Review of the Regulations.</b> Draft regulation 107.</i></li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> 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"> <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 <b>Official holiday<sup>4</sup></b>		

11 March 2026.

---

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