



Remarks on Agenda Item 11 of Part I of the 31st Council Session

By H.E. Madam Secretary-General, Leticia Carvalho

9 March 2026

Plenary

Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston, Jamaica

Thank you, Mr. President.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to present before this Council the Further Revised Consolidated Text of the Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area, the document ISBA/31/C/CRP.1/Rev.2.

I want to thank you all for the collaboration and constructive input that has formed the foundation for this work.

This Further Revised Consolidated Text represents the culmination of dedicated efforts, constructive dialogue and unwavering commitment by Member States and stakeholders through their solid submissions.

I hope that the Further Revised Consolidated Text helps to support discussions within the Council with the aim to finalizing the Mining Code as required under the Convention and 1994 Agreement.

Let me recall that during the second part of the 30th Session, the Council completed the reading of the Revised Consolidated Text ISBA/30/C/CRP.1, and adopted the Decision ISBA/30/C/18 on a thematic approach to the elaboration of Rules, Regulations and Procedures relating to exploitation to resolve remaining key outstanding matters.

In paragraph 3 of the Decision, the Council requested the Secretariat, *inter alia*, to prepare a further Revised Consolidated Text, based on the discussions during the 30th Session.

The Secretariat took note of the oral inputs provided during the Session and received written submissions and proposals from Member States and stakeholders until 1st October 2025 and from Informal Working Groups and the “Friends of the President” until 1st December 2025.

On 23 December 2025, the Secretariat published the Further Revised Consolidated Text, document ISBA/31/C/CRP.1. Two limited revisions were subsequently published on the ISA’s website on 12 February 2026 (ISBA/31/C/CRP.1/Rev.1 and 16 February 2026, based on specific comments requested from the groups to more accurately reflect their discussions and agreements.

Structurally, the text now provides alternatives and consistent use of terms and phrases.

Rationale and suggestions have been provided in the comment boxes below each regulation, including to ensure consistency with the language and substantive content of the Convention, and the 1994 Agreement. In addition, some boxes reference potential intersections between ISA and the BBNJ Agreement for further consideration by Member States.

Explanations in the boxes are provided to assist the Council. They do not prejudice the Council’s ability to adopt different solutions in the text.

All the described methodologies have been followed in preparing the main body of the Text and the definitions in the Schedule. However, since the Council has never conducted a reading of the Annexes and Schedule, proposals to refine those parts have been included without any evaluation by the Secretariat. Amendments to the Annexes and the Schedule must therefore be considered as a compilation rather than a consolidation.

As for the previous versions, the Text is accompanied by a Further Revised Suspense Document, ISBA/31/C/CRP.3, that has been published on 23 December 2025. This document contains all elements to be relocated from the Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area to the Standard and Guidelines.

For the first time, a clean version of the Text has also been published, contained in document ISBA/31/C/CRP.2/Rev.2.

This document, in which all marked-up text has been accepted and the comment boxes removed, is provided to offer the Council a better overview of how the content might look. In case of any inconsistency between the two documents, the marked-up version shall prevail.

The Secretariat recognizes that the work before this Council is of great significance. The Regulations we are developing will establish the foundation for responsible and sustainable exploitation of mineral resources in the Area for generations to come.

These Regulations must ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects, anchored in the precautionary approach. At the same time they must provide a foundation for ensuring the equitable sharing of benefits derived from activities in the Area, ultimately delivering on the promise of the principle of the common heritage of humankind.

It is therefore essential that we continue our collective efforts with the same spirit of cooperation, good faith, determination and the commitment to excellence that has brought us to this advanced stage.

Let me respectfully highlight that the Further Revised Consolidated Text and its related documents are non-binding and do not prejudice any delegation's position or the Council's decisions.

Nevertheless, the Council may wish to build upon the substantial progress achieved and to work with renewed determination towards the timely finalization of these Regulations. The international community looks to the ISA to deliver a strong, balanced and effective legal framework – one that will ensure the effective protection of the marine environment in accordance with Article 145 of the Convention.

The Secretariat stands ready to provide all necessary support, expertise and assistance to facilitate the Council's deliberations.

With that, I thank you, Mr. President, and all distinguished delegates for your continued dedication, wisdom, and commitment to this noble endeavour.