



Order on request for extension of time limit to respond

David Pusztai (the "Appellant")

v.

**Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority
(the "Respondent")**

Case No. ISBA/JAB/APPEAL/PUSZTAI/2025

Order No. 10 (2025)

1. The appellant asserted that on 4 March 2025, he submitted a Statement of Appeal before the Joint Appeals Board (JAB) Secretariat in accordance with Staff Rule 11.2 of the Staff Rules of the International Seabed Authority.
2. On 7 March 2025, having received no acknowledgment of receipt, the Appellant emailed the JAB Secretariat copying the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Legal Affairs to express concern over the lack of acknowledgment, which he described as an unfair practice.
3. Later the same day, the JAB Secretariat responded to the Appellant indicating that no email had been received from the Appellant on 4 March 2025 and also noted that other appeals submitted during that period had been duly acknowledged, suggesting the omission was unintentional. The Appellant was advised that large file submissions may not display correctly in the system and was invited to upload his appeal and supporting documents via a secured shared drive created by the JAB Secretariat to ensure proper receipt.
4. Also on 7 March 2025, the JAB Secretariat informed the Appellant that the Rules of Procedure of the JAB had been revised as of 4 March 2025 and advised that, should the Appellant wish to submit his appeal under the revised Rules, he could do so by no later than 7 April 2025, as proposed by the Chair of the JAB.
5. On 15 March 2025, the Appellant resubmitted his Statement of Appeal, and the JAB Secretariat acknowledged receipt of the submission on the same date.



6. On 17 March 2025, the Chair of the JAB inquired whether both parties wished to enter into a conciliation process in accordance with the JAB Rules of Procedure. Although the Appellant agreed to explore the Conciliation, the Respondent declined the offer on 21 March 2025.

7. Also, on 21 March 2025, the JAB Secretariat formally notified the Respondent of the appeal and invited the submission of a reply by 21 April 2025.

8. On 28 March 2025, both parties were informed that the appeal would be considered by the full Board.

9. As 21 April 2025 was an official holiday, the Respondent submitted her reply on 23 April 2025.

10. On 24 April 2025, the JAB Secretariat transmitted the Respondent's reply to the Appellant and invited his comments thereon by 21 May 2025.

11. On 19 May 2025, the Appellant submitted a letter to the Chair of the JAB and requested an extension of the time-limit for submitting comments on the reply, noting that under Rule 17(4) of the Rules of Procedure, the appropriate deadline should be 23 May 2025 and not 21 May 2025.

12. Rule 17 (4) of the Rules of Procedures of the JAB establishes that the respondents' reply shall be transmitted by the JAB Secretariat to the appellant and/or counsel inviting written observations, if any, to be submitted within one month.

13. The Chair of the JAB reviews the Appellant's request and considers the request of a two-day extension acceptable.

14. The Chair of the JAB finds that an extension would not unduly prejudice the proceedings or the Respondent.

ORDER

15. For the aforementioned reasons, the Appellant's request for an extension of time is GRANTED.

16. The deadline for the Appellant's submission of comments on the Respondent's reply is hereby extended from **21 May 2025** to **23 May 2025**.

Dated 20 May 2025

Judge Martha Halfeld Furtado de Mendonça Schmidt

Chair of the Joint Appeals Board