



## **Order regarding procedural communication and interlocutory request**

**Giovanni Ardito (the “Appellant”)**

**V.**

**Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority**

**(the “Respondent”)**

### **Order No. 7 (2025)**

1. On 19 March 2025, the Appellant submitted an application requesting the suspension of a recruitment process initiated by the Secretary-General. The Appellant contends that this recruitment—purportedly the result of organizational restructuring—represents a continued effort by the Respondent to undermine his fixed-term appointment. He maintains that this action was taken despite the Joint Appeals Board’s prior decision on a suspension request related to the withdrawal of his original appointment.
2. On 20 March 2025, the Secretariat of the Joint Appeals Board formally acknowledged receipt of the suspension application. That same day, the Secretary of the Board transmitted the application to the Respondent with a request for a reply by 28 March 2025.
3. On 27 March 2025, the Chair of the Board constituted a Panel to adjudicate the Appellant’s request for suspension of action. This constitution followed confirmation of availability and consent from the designated Panel members. A notification of the Panel’s constitution was issued to both parties on the same date by the Secretary of the Board.
4. Subsequently, on 2 April 2025, the Appellant submitted further communication in which he formally requested the disqualification of two members of the Panel, including the Chair, who also presides over the constituted Panel in question.
5. In accordance with Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Appeals Board, where a disqualification request concerns the Chair, the matter must be resolved by a member of the Board selected by lot and who does not sit on the Panel in question. Pursuant to this rule, Ambassador Gina Guillén Grillo was selected to determine the disqualification request on 2 April 2025. The JAB Secretariat informed her of this designation on the same day.
6. Subsequently, on 9 April 2025, an Order was issued regarding the request for disqualification, confirming that the Panel shall proceed as constituted. Accordingly, the Panel is now considering the Appellant’s request for suspension of action.

7. Notwithstanding the above, the Panel acknowledges receipt of the Appellant's letter dated 9 April 2025 concerning the invitation extended to the Respondent to provide comments on the Appellant's submission of 7 April 2025.

8. The Panel emphasizes that no decision has been taken by the Panel regarding the Appellant's request for suspension of action. The invitation issued to the Respondent was made solely to ensure procedural fairness and to allow both parties an opportunity to be heard, which is standard practice in adversarial proceedings before this Board.

### **ORDER**

9. Consequently, the Appellant's request for interlocutory relief seeking an immediate suspension of the ongoing recruitment process is deferred.

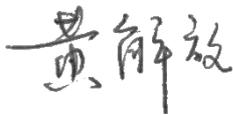
10. This Order is issued without prejudice to any future ruling the Panel may adopt.

**Dated 10 April 2025**



**Judge Martha Halfeld Furtado de Mendonça Schmidt**

Chair of the Panel



**Professor Jiefang Huang**

Member of the Panel



**Judge Courtney Maxwell**

Member of the Panel