



Council

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Agenda item 6

Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission in accordance with article 163, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, if any

Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission in accordance with article 163, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Council of the International Seabed Authority is invited to note that Paulus Kainge (Namibia), a member of the Legal and Technical Commission, communicated his resignation on 23 January 2026. He had been elected a member of the Commission on 24 August 2022 for a term of five years beginning on 1 January 2023 (see [ISBA/27/C/41/Add.1](#)).
2. In accordance with article 163, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and rule 80, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the Council, in the event of the death, incapacity or resignation of a member of the Commission prior to the expiration of the term of office, the Council shall elect for the remainder of the term a member from the same geographical region or area of interest.
3. Article 163, paragraph 3, of the Convention and rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Council provide that members of the Commission shall have appropriate qualifications in the area of competence of the Commission and that States Parties shall nominate candidates of the highest standards of competence and integrity with qualifications in the relevant fields to ensure the effective exercise of the functions of the Commission.
4. By a note verbale dated 6 March 2026, the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Group of African States at the Authority, informed the secretariat of the nomination of Aphary Muyongo (Namibia), Deputy Director of the Economic Geology Division in the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, as a candidate to fill the vacant seat on the Commission



resulting from the resignation of Mr. Kainge. The curriculum vitae of Mr. Muyongo can be found on the website of the Authority.¹

5. The secretariat invites the Council to take a decision on the election of Mr. Muyongo to fill the current vacancy.

¹ See https://isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Curriculum-Vitae-of-Mr.-Aphary-Muyongo_Redacted.pdf. The curriculum vitae is available in the language of submission only.