



## Assembly

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### Thirty-first session

Kingston, 27–31 July 2026

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

**Consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Assembly**

### **Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly submitted by Tonga Offshore Mining Limited as a contractor**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

1. It is recalled that, during the thirtieth session of the Assembly, it was agreed that contractors could participate as observers in their individual capacity and not be treated differently from other stakeholders. Contractors were invited to submit requests for observer status to be granted by the Assembly.<sup>1</sup>
2. On 23 April 2026, Tonga Offshore Mining Limited submitted a request to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority concerning the granting by the Assembly of observer status as a contractor. The request is submitted in accordance with article 169 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in conjunction with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, and the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority, adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session (ISBA/25/A/16, annex). The request is prepared in the format prescribed in enclosure 1 to the guidelines. The text of the letter and the application form provided by the applicant can be found on the website of the Authority.<sup>2</sup>
3. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly may participate as observers in the Assembly.

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\* ISBA/31/A/L.1.

<sup>1</sup> See ISBA/30/A/14, para. 12.

<sup>2</sup> See [https://isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/ISA-Observer-Status-Application\\_TOML.pdf](https://isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/ISA-Observer-Status-Application_TOML.pdf).



4. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule also provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.

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