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Agenda item 8

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters

Laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the International Seabed Authority with respect to the activities in the Area, and related matters

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is provided pursuant to the decision of the Council, at the seventeenth session of the Authority, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the Authority with respect to the activities in the Area and invited sponsoring States and other members of the Authority, as appropriate, to provide information on, or the texts of, relevant national laws, regulations and administrative measures to the secretariat ([ISBA/17/C/20](#), para. 3), and its subsequent decision to make this a standing item on its agenda on an annual basis ([ISBA/18/C/21](#), para. 4).

2. It is also recalled that, at the twenty-third session, in 2017, by its decision relating to the final report on the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Assembly invited sponsoring States, if they had not already done so, to review their respective national legislation to control activities by their sponsored entities, drawing on the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ([ISBA/23/A/13](#), sect. B).

3. By a note verbale dated 22 April 2026, the secretariat invited sponsoring States and other members of the Authority to submit to the secretariat the texts of relevant national laws, regulations and administrative measures, or updates on their policy and legislative processes. As of 8 May 2026, such texts or updates had been received from Belgium, Honduras, Mauritius, Spain and Uruguay.



4. As of 8 May 2026, the Authority's online database contained information on or the texts of relevant national legislation received from the following 44 States: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, China, Cook Islands, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Guyana, Honduras, India, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia. It also contains information received from the Pacific Community. The database contains further information and the texts of national laws, regulations and administrative measures submitted by the aforementioned member and observer States of the Authority.¹ It will continue to be updated upon receipt of new information. A comparative study on national legislation concerning deep seabed mining is also available on the database.²

5. In addition, by a note verbale dated 6 May 2026, the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations informed the secretariat of the Authority that Mauritius had already initiated its legislative processes for the drafting of a seabed minerals bill with a view to regulating prospection and exploration for and mining of mineral deposits in the seabed and subsoil areas of its maritime zones. Mauritius was also drafting a seabed mineral bill beyond national jurisdiction to regulate the engagement of Mauritius in seabed mineral activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The two bills would be supplemented by relevant provisions as adopted by the Council of the Authority, including with regard to exploitation regulation, standards and guidelines, and regional environmental management plans, to ensure that the legislation of Mauritius was in line with international best practices. The two bills were currently under review at the Attorney General's Office. The national agency overseeing deep seabed mining and related activities was the Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration of the Prime Minister's Office.

6. The Council is invited to take note of the present report.

¹ See www.isa.org.jm/national-legislation-database.

² See www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Comparative_Study_NL.pdf, updated in November 2021.