

COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

ANNOTATED AGENDA

for the second part of its thirty-first session
(13-24 July 2026, Kingston, Jamaica)
v. 12 July 2026

I. Introduction

1. As agreed by the Council ([ISBA/30/C/5/Add.1](#), paragraph 49), the second part of the thirty-first session of the Council will be held from the 13th to the 24th of July 2026. The Council will meet immediately after the meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission (29 June to 10 July) and the Finance Committee (7 to 10 July) and immediately prior to the meeting of the Assembly (27-31 July). The purpose of this note is to inform members of the Council, as well as observers, of the matters for consideration by the Council.

II. Resumption of the session (item 1 of the agenda, Monday 13 July 2026)

2. At the first part of the session in March 2026, the Council adopted its agenda ([ISBA/31/C/1](#)) and elected Mayank Joshi (India) as President of the Council for the thirty-first session. South Africa (African States), Costa Rica (Latin American and Caribbean States) and Italy (Western European and other States) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

3. The second part of the thirty-first session of the Council will be reconvened by its President, on Monday, 13 July 2026, at 10:00 am, in Conference Room 1 of the Jamaica Conference Center. 16 out of 21 items currently listed on the agenda of the Council will be considered by the Council as stipulated in the indicative programme of work ([IPW](#)).

4. The IPW for the second part of the session will be issued by the secretariat and will also be available on the Authority's website. Delegations are invited to note that the IPW is mainly based on the Decision of the Council on a thematic approach, agreed for the thirty-first session ([ISBA/30/C/18](#)), taking into account the outcome of the intersessional work on the outstanding issues of the draft Exploitation Regulations, the availability of the facilitators of the informal working groups and the Friends of the President groups, as well as the forecast availability of the reports of the Finance Committee and the Legal and Technical Commission.

III. Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council (item 5 of the agenda, Thursday 23 July 2026)

5. The Secretary-General will provide an oral report on the credentials of members of the Council. The Council will be invited to approve the report, pursuant to Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

IV. 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 (item 6 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026).

6. On Monday, 20 July 2026, the President will invite the Council to take a decision on the election of Mr. Aphary Muyongo (Namibia) to fill the current vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission, after Mr.

Paulus Kainge (Namibia) communicated his resignation as member of the Commission, [ISBA/31/C/20](#).

7. The same day, the President will invite the Council to take a decision on the election of Mr. Jonguk Kim (Republic of Korea) to fill the vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission, after Dr. Se-Jong Ju (Republic of Korea) communicated his resignation as member of the Commission, .

V. Status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration (item 7 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026).

8. The Secretary-General will provide, for the consideration of the Council, a report on the status of the contracts for exploration and periodic reviews of the implementation of plans of work for exploration. The document is contained in [ISBA/31/C/3/Add.1](#). The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

Relinquishment of areas allocated for exploration

9. The Secretary-General will provide, for the consideration of the Council, the following reports:

- a) Report on the relinquishment of one-third of the area allocated to the Government of the Republic of Korea under the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, ISBA/31/C/30;
- b) Report on the relinquishment of 75 per cent of the area allocated to the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources under the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides, ISBA/31/C/31.

The Council will be invited to take note of both reports.

VI. Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters (item 8 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026).

10. The Secretary-General will provide, for the consideration of the Council, 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 related matters. The document is contained in [ISBA/31/C/21](#). The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

VII. Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration, if any (item 10 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026).

11. The Council will consider the application for extension of the following contract for exploration upon the recommendation to the Council by the Legal and Technical Commission:

- a) Application for extension of the contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of the Federal Republic of Germany and the International Seabed Authority, ISBA/31/C/25, and draft decision,
- b) Application for extension of the contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between Nauru Ocean Resources Inc and the International Seabed Authority, ISBA/31/C/26, and draft decision,
- c) Application for extension of the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides between China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association and the International Seabed Authority, ISBA/31/C/27, and draft decision.

12. The Council will consider these applications in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of section 3 of the Annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 in accordance with the Decision of the Council of 23 July 2015 relating to the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, of the Annex to the 1994 Agreement (ISBA/21/C/19*).

13. Upon approval by the Council, a contract is to be extended by the execution by the Secretary-General and the authorized representative of the Contractor of an agreement in the form set out in Annex II of the Decision of the Council of 23 July 2015. The terms and conditions applicable to the contract during the extension period are the terms and conditions in force as at the date of the extension, pursuant to the relevant regulations.

VIII. Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (item 11 of the agenda, Monday 13 – Friday 24 July 2026).

Presentation of the Revision 3 of the Further Revised Consolidated Text of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and the updated indicative list of outstanding issues

14. The Council will continue its consideration of the Draft Regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, as a matter of priority, following the Council decision on a thematic approach to the continuation of the elaboration of rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation to resolve remaining key outstanding matters ([ISBA/30/C/18](#)), as well as the review of the progress on the Draft Regulations and the agreement on necessary intersessional work during the Council's March 2026 meetings ([ISBA/31/C/19/Rev.1](#)). According to paragraph 45 of [ISBA/31/C/19/Rev.1](#), the President of the Council requested the Secretariat to compile the textual proposals by the informal working groups and the Friends of the President groups in order to issue a revision 3 of the Further Revised Consolidated Text by 19 June 2026, which would be the basis for discussion during the second part of the thirty-first session of the Council.

15. In that regard, the secretariat published on 19 June 2026 on the [website of the Authority](#), the revision 3 of the Further Revised Consolidated Text, ISBA/31/C/CRP.1/Rev.3 ([PDF/Word](#)).

16. As outlined in paragraph 49 of [ISBA/31/C/19/Rev.1](#), the Council endorsed the request by the President to the Secretariat to prepare and circulate an updated list of outstanding issues ahead of the second part of the thirty-first session, reflecting: a) the progress achieved; b) the areas requiring further consideration; and c) to include a priority section identifying cross-cutting and thematic issues that require political guidance from the Council.

17. The Secretariat published on the [website of the Authority](#) an updated indicative list of outstanding issues [ISBA/31/C/CRP.7](#), reflecting progress achieved during the first part of the thirty-first session and the intersessional work, to facilitate and guide the Council's negotiations on the draft exploitation regulations under the thematic approach and in accordance with the Indicative Programme of Work.

18. In this regard, the Council will be invited to examine the updated indicative list of outstanding issues, pursuant Council decision [ISBA/30/C/18](#), paragraph 7.

Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text

19. Pursuant to Council decision [ISBA/30/C/18](#), paragraphs 1, 5, 6 and 7, the Council is expected to continue negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text on a thematic approach for the thirty-first session of the Council towards resolving the remaining key outstanding matters.

20. The Council will be invited to continue the negotiations on those issues that were not completed during the first part of the thirty-first session, such as the discussions on the Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections (draft regulations 97bis to 101); the informal working group on Effective Control; the whistleblowing protections (draft regulation 101 bis), including a draft general policy on whistleblowing, [ISBA/31/C/CRP9](#); the Annexes and the Schedule.

21. Additionally, the Council will continue the negotiation of outstanding issues within the informal working groups and the Friends of the President groups, based on the outcomes of their intersessional work, in Plenary in a formal setting or in informal meetings in the sidelines of the Council meetings during breakfast or lunch times, in accordance with the [Indicative Programme of Work](#).

Standards and Guidelines

22. The Council is also expected to discuss the development of Standards and Guidelines, based on the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission, following the proposal of the President of the Council, endorsed by the Council during the March 2026 Council meetings ([ISBA/31/C/19/Rev.1](#), paragraph 42), to request the Commission: a) to take up the current list of Standards and Guidelines; b) to prepare an updated and consolidated version, including merging specific Standards and/or Guidelines, where appropriate; c) to revise the list of Standards and Guidelines that should be ready by the time of the adoption of the Regulations; d) to identify those standards and guidelines that are already prepared and that may require revision in light of the current state of negotiations; and e) to develop a timeline or roadmap and recommendations on the development of Standards and Guidelines by the Commission to be reported before the Council meetings in July 2026.

Assessment of the remaining work and the establishment of a road map

23. Pursuant to the Council decision on a thematic approach, [ISBA/30/C/18](#), paragraph 8, the Council will assess, at the end of the thirty-first session, the remaining work, if any, that would be needed prior to the adoption of the rules, regulations and procedures and to establish a road map to that end. Additionally, the Council is expected to agree on necessary intersessional work.

IX. Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2025 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (item 12 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026).

24. The Secretary-General will provide, for the consideration of the Council, a report on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2025 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission. The document is contained in [ISBA/31/C/24](#) and has been published on the website of the Authority. The Council will be invited to take note of the report and to provide such guidance as may be necessary.

X. Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at the second part of its thirty-first session (item 13 of the agenda, Tuesday 14 July 2026).

25. The Council will receive an addendum to the report on the work undertaken by the Legal and Technical Commission during the second part of its thirty-first session, held from 29 June to 10 July 2026. The report is expected to be issued during the first week of the Council meetings as an advance unedited version, followed by its translation into the official languages of the Authority during the second week of the session. The Council may review and take action on any specific recommendations presented by the Commission.

26. In addition, the Chair of the Commission is expected to present an oral report on the work of the Commission on Tuesday, 14 July 2026. Members of the Council will have an opportunity to comment on the report and raise issues of relevance to the Commission's work. Consistent with previous practice, the Council may subsequently consider and adopt decisions on matters arising from the Commission's reports.

XI. Report of the interim Director General of the Enterprise (item 14 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026).

27. The interim Director-General of the Enterprise will present his annual report on activities undertaken in performing the functions of the Enterprise as specified in Section 2 of the Annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982. The document is contained in [ISBA/31/C/23 – ISBA/31/A/6](#) and has been published on the website of the Authority. The Council will be invited to take note of the report.

XII. Report of the Secretary-General concerning the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission (item 15 of the agenda, Monday 20 July 2026)

28. The Council will continue the consideration of the adoption of the draft of the Council on the election mechanisms for members of the Economic Planning Commission, set out in the annex of the report of the Secretariat. The document is contained in [ISBA/31/C/CRP.6](#) and has been published on the webpage of the Authority.

XIII. Report of the Finance Committee (item 16 of the agenda, Thursday 23 July 2026)

29. The Council will consider the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee (which meets from 8 to 10 July 2026). The Council will be invited to take note of the report and to adopt a draft decision relating to financial and budgetary matters, with recommendations to the Assembly, based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The document will be available on the website of the Authority after Monday, 13 July 2026.

XIV. Budget of the International Seabed Authority (item 17 of the agenda, Thursday 23 July 2026)

30. The Council will be invited to consider the proposed budget of the Authority for the financial period 2027-2028 and provide its recommendation to the Assembly, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The document is contained in [ISBA/31/C/22 – ISBA/31/A/4](#).

XV. Adoption of the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2027–2028 (item 18 of the agenda, Thursday 23 July 2026)

31. The Council will be invited to consider the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2027-2028, based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee and it will be contained in the report of the Finance Committee. The document will be available on the website of the Authority after Monday, 13 July 2026.

XVI. Dates of the next session (item 20 of the agenda, Friday 24 July 2026)

32. At the end of the thirty-first session, the Council will be invited to take note of the dates established for the thirty-second session. The proposed dates, that the secretariat has arranged in advance, in close

coordination with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for the United Nations, are the following, subject to the agreement of the members of the Council:

First part, 8-19 March 2027 [2 weeks]

Second part, 12-23 July 2027 [2 weeks]

Third part [TBC]

25 October – 5 November 2027 [10 days] or

25 October – 3 November 2027 [8 days]

XVII. Other matters (item 21 of the agenda, Monday 13 July 2026)

33. The secretariat will brief the Council on the status of the proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

34. The Council will be invited to consider holding a third part of the thirty-first session. The proposed dates, that the secretariat has arranged in advance, in close coordination with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for the United Nations, are the following, subject to the agreement of the members of the Council.

26 October – 6 November 2026 [10 days]

Kingston, Jamaica, 12 July 2026.