



COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY  
**INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK<sup>1</sup>** v.8 July 2026  
Second part of the thirty-first session, 13-24 July 2026.

**WEEK 1 (13-17 July 2026)**

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Monday 13 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 1</u>: Resumption of the session.</li> <li>• <u>Item 6</u>: Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission (Namibia), <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/20</a>.</li> <li>• <u>Item 21</u>: Other matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Consideration of a third part of the thirty-first session.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Presentation of the Rev. 3 of the Further Revised Consolidated Text of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, ISBA/31/C/CRP.1/Rev.3 (<a href="#">PDF/Word</a>).</li> <li>– Presentation of the revised indicative list of outstanding issues and examination by the Council, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/CRP.7</a>.</li> <li>– Regulatory. <b>Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections</b>. Draft regulations 97 bis-101 (continuation from 1<sup>st</sup> part of 31<sup>st</sup> session).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	1:45–3:00 pm Delegates Dining Room	Dialogue hosted by the Legal and Technical Commission: <b>REMPs</b> .
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Regulatory. <b>Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections</b>. Draft regulations 97 bis-101 (continuation from 1<sup>st</sup> part of 31<sup>st</sup> session).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tuesday 14 July 2026	8:45–10:00 am Delegates Dining Room	Dialogue hosted by the Legal and Technical Commission: <b>Development of environmental threshold values</b> .

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Agenda of the Council ([ISBA/31/C/1](#)).

Date	Time	Agenda Item
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 13</a>: Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the second part of its thirty-first session.</li> </ul>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annexes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Wednesday 15 July 2026	9:00–10:00 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> <b>Authority’s working modalities</b> , cross-cutting issue.
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annexes.</li> <li>– Regulatory. <b>Review of These Regulations (Friends of the President, Belgium)</b>, draft regulation 107 – 1 hour.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Environmental. <b>Protection of Submarine Cables (Friends of the President, Singapore)</b>, draft regulations 31 and 31 bis. <a href="#">Guiding questions for discussion</a> – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Regulatory. <b>Seabed Mining Register (Friends of the President, India)</b>, draft regulation 92 – 1.5 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Thursday 16 July 2026	9:00–10:00 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> <b>Non-confidentiality of Environmental Data</b> , draft regulation 89, paragraph (3)(f).
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annexes and Schedule.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	2:00–3:00 pm Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Financial. <b>Equalization Measure (Informal Working Group, Australia)</b> , draft regulation 64 bis and Draft Equalisation Standard.

Date	Time	Agenda Item
	3:00 – 6:00 pm Conference Room #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Financial. <b>Payment System and Review of Payment Mechanism (Friends of the President, Canada)</b>, draft regulations 81-82, Draft Standard and Guidelines and Schedule – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Financial. <b>Monopolization (Friends of the President, Trinidad &amp; Tobago)</b>, draft regulations 13, 15, 24, 24 bis and Schedule – 1.5 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Friday 17 July 2026	9:00–10:00 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Regulatory. <b>Whistleblowing Protections</b> , draft regulation 101 bis (deferred from 1 <sup>st</sup> part of 31 <sup>st</sup> session). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Draft General Policy on Whistleblowing, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/CRP.9</a>.</li> </ul>
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Environmental. <b>Reference to REMPs (Informal Working Group, Netherlands)</b>, cross-cutting issues. <a href="#">Note for the discussion</a> – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Environmental. <b>Environmental Management and Monitoring (Informal Working Group, Norway)</b>, draft regulations 49-52 – 1.5 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annexes and Schedule - 1 hour.</li> <li>– Regulatory. <b>Effective Control (Informal Working Group, Chile, Costa Rica)</b> (deferred from 1<sup>st</sup> part of 31<sup>st</sup> session), <a href="#">draft standard</a> and <a href="#">introductory note</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Schedule and definition – 1 hour.</li> <li>➤ Draft regulations 5-7, 13, 21, 24, 24 bis, 40, Annex I – 1 hour.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**WEEK 2 (20-24 July 2026)**

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Monday 20 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 6</u>: Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission (Republic of Korea).</li> <li>• <u>Item 8</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/21</a>.</li> <li>• <u>Item 7</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/3/Add.1</a>.</li> <li>• <u>Item 12</u>: 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, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/24</a>.</li> <li>• <u>Item 21</u>: Other matters.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Litigation before ITLOS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	2:00–3:00 pm Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> <b>ICE Mechanism (Informal Working Group, Norway).</b>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 15</u>: Operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Draft decision of the Council on the election mechanisms of the Economic Planning Commission, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/CRP.6</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Item 9</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for a plan of work for exploration.</li> <li>• <u>Item 10</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration.</li> <li>• <u>Item 14</u>: Report of the interim Director-General of the Enterprise, <a href="#">ISBA/31/C/23 – ISBA/31/A/6</a>.</li> </ul>
Tuesday 21 July 2026	9 am – 10 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Environmental. <b>Closure Plans (Informal Working Group, Fiji)</b> . Draft regulations 59-61 and Annex VIII.
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Environmental. <b>Test Mining and Pilot Mining (Informal Working Group, Belgium, China, Germany)</b>, draft regulation 48 ter (and draft regulations 7, 11, 12, 13, 46, 48, 48 bis, Annex VII and Schedule) – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Environmental. Joint meeting <b>Closure Plans (Informal Working Group, Fiji) and Environmental Management and Monitoring (Informal Working Group, Norway)</b> – 1.5 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Date	Time	Agenda Item
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Environmental. <b>Environmental Compensation Fund (Friends of the President, Mexico)</b>, section 4 (draft regulations 54-56) – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Regulatory. <b>Compliance and enforcement measures (Friends of the President, Netherlands)</b>, draft regulations 103-105, <a href="#">note for discussion</a> – 1.5 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Wednesday 22 July 2026	9 am – 10 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> <b>Potentially Polluting Wrecks (Friends of the President, Spain)</b> , <a href="#">briefing note and textual proposal</a> .
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Governance. <b>Rights and Interests of Coastal States (Informal Working Group, Portugal, Singapore)</b>, draft regulations 4, 4 bis and 93 bis – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Governance. <b>Underwater Cultural Heritage (Informal Working Group, Brazil, Greece, Micronesia)</b>, draft regulations 35, 35 Alt and other related draft regulations – 1.5 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 11</a>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Environmental. <b>Environmental Goals and Objectives (Friends of the President, Germany)</b>, draft regulation 44 ter – 1.5 hours.</li> <li>– Annexes and Schedule.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Thursday 23 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 5</a>: Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Item 16</a>: Report of the Finance Committee.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Item 15</a>: Operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Report of the Finance Committee on the financial implications and the most practical timelines for the Economic Planning Commission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Item 17</a>: Budget of the International Seabed Authority, <a href="#">ISBA/31/A/4-ISBA/31/C/22</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Draft decision of the Council relating to financial and budgetary matters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Item 18</a>: Adoption of the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2027–2028.</li> </ul>

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Friday 24 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standard and Guidelines.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Item 11</u>: Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment of the remaining work that would be needed prior to the adoption of the rules, regulations and procedures and establishment of a road map to that end.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>- Agreement on necessary intersessional work.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Adoption of draft decisions (as required).</li> <li>• <u>Item 20</u>: Dates of the next session.</li> <li>• End of the second part of the thirty-first session.</li> </ul>

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<sup>2</sup> According to ISBA/31/C/19/Rev.1, paragraph 42.

<sup>3</sup> According to ISBA/30/C/18, paragraph 8.