



COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK¹ v.12 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	• <u>Item 1</u>: Resumption of the session. • <u>Item 21</u>: Other matters. – Report on the status of the proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, ISBA/31/C/29. – Consideration of a third part of the thirty-first session. • <u>Item 11</u>: Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. – 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 (PDF/Word). – Presentation of the revised indicative list of outstanding issues and examination by the Council, ISBA/31/C/CRP.7. – Regulatory. Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections. Draft regulations 97 bis-101 (continuation from 1st part of 31st session).
	1:45–3:00 pm Delegates Dining Room	Dialogue hosted by the Legal and Technical Commission: REMPs.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Regulatory. Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Inspections. Draft regulations 97 bis-101 (continuation from 1st part of 31st session).
Tuesday 14 July 2026	8:45–10:00 am Delegates Dining Room	Dialogue hosted by the Legal and Technical Commission: Development of environmental threshold values.

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

Date	Time	Agenda Item
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 13</u>: 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.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Annexes.
Wednesday 15 July 2026	9:00–10:00 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Authority's working modalities , cross-cutting issue.
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Annexes.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Environmental. Protection of Submarine Cables (Friends of the President, Singapore), draft regulations 31 and 31 bis. Guiding questions for discussion – 1.5 hours. – Regulatory. Review of These Regulations (Friends of the President, Belgium), draft regulation 107 – 1.5 hours.
Thursday 16 July 2026	9:00–10:00 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Non-confidentiality of Environmental Data , draft regulation 89, paragraph (3)(f).
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Annexes and Schedule.
	2:00–3:00 pm Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Financial. Equalization Measure (Informal Working Group, Australia) , draft regulation 64 bis and Draft Equalisation Standard.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm Conference Room #4	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Financial. Payment System and Review of Payment Mechanism (Friends of the President, Canada), draft regulations 81-82, Draft Standard and Guidelines and Schedule – 1.5 hours. – Financial. Monopolization (Friends of the President, Trinidad & Tobago), draft regulations 13, 15, 24, 24 bis and Schedule – 1.5 hours.

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Friday 17 July 2026	9:00–10:00 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Regulatory. Whistleblowing Protections , draft regulation 101 bis (deferred from 1 st part of 31 st session). – Draft General Policy on Whistleblowing, ISBA/31/C/CRP.9.
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Environmental. Reference to REMPs (Informal Working Group, Netherlands), cross-cutting issues. Note for the discussion – 1.5 hours. – Environmental. Environmental Management and Monitoring (Informal Working Group, Norway), draft regulations 49-52. Guiding questions – 1.5 hours.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Annexes and Schedule - 1 hour. – Regulatory. Effective Control (Informal Working Group, Chile, Costa Rica) (deferred from 1st part of 31st session), draft standard and introductory note. ➤ Schedule and definition – 1 hour. ➤ Draft regulations 5-7, 13, 21, 24, 24 bis, 40, Annex I – 1 hour.

WEEK 2 (20-24 July 2026)

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Monday 20 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 6</u>: Elections to fill vacancies on the Legal and Technical Commission, Namibia ISBA/31/C/20, and Republic of Korea.<u>Item 8</u>: Report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters, ISBA/31/C/21. • <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, ISBA/31/C/3/Add.1. – 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. – 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. • <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, ISBA/31/C/24.
	2:00–3:00 pm Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> ICE Mechanism (Informal Working Group, Norway) , draft regulation 95bis, draft decision on the establishment of the Compliance Committee.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 15</u>: Operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission. – Draft decision of the Council on the election mechanisms of the Economic Planning Commission, ISBA/31/C/CRP.6. • <u>Item 10</u>: Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration. – 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, – 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, – 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. • <u>Item 14</u>: Report of the interim Director-General of the Enterprise, ISBA/31/C/23 – ISBA/31/A/6.

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Tuesday 21 July 2026	9 am – 10 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Environmental. Closure Plans (Informal Working Group, Fiji) , draft regulations 50-51 and Annex VIII.
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Environmental. Test Mining and Pilot Mining (Informal Working Group, Belgium, China, Germany), draft regulation 48 ter (and draft regulations 7,11,12,13,46,48, 48 bis, Annex VII and Schedule) – 1.5 hours. – Environmental. Joint meeting Closure Plans (Informal Working Group, Fiji) and Environmental Management and Monitoring (Informal Working Group, Norway) – 1.5 hours.
	2:00–3:00 pm Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Regulatory. Seabed Mining Register (Friends of the President, India) , draft regulation 92.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Environmental. Environmental Compensation Fund (Friends of the President, Mexico), section 4 (draft regulations 54-56) – 1.5 hours. – Regulatory. Compliance and enforcement measures (Friends of the President, Netherlands), draft regulations 103-105, note for discussion – 1.5 hours.
Wednesday 22 July 2026	9 am – 10 am Conference Room #4	<i>Informal meeting</i> Potentially Polluting Wrecks (Friends of the President, Spain) , briefing note and textual proposal .
	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Governance. Rights and Interests of Coastal States (Informal Working Group, Portugal, Singapore), draft regulations 4, 4 bis and 93 bis – 1.5 hours. – Governance. Underwater Cultural Heritage (Informal Working Group, Brazil, Greece, Micronesia), draft regulations 35, 35 Alt and other related draft regulations – 1.5 hours.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• <u>Item 11</u>: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Environmental. Environmental Goals and Objectives (Friends of the President, Germany), draft regulation 44 ter – 1.5 hours. – Annexes and Schedule.

Date	Time	Agenda Item
Thursday 23 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• Item 5: Report of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members of the Council. • Item 16: Report of the Finance Committee. • Item 15: Operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission. – Report of the Finance Committee on the financial implications and the most practical timelines for the Economic Planning Commission.
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• Item 17: Budget of the International Seabed Authority, ISBA/31/A/4-ISBA/31/C/22. – Draft decision of the Council relating to financial and budgetary matters. • Item 18: Adoption of the scale of assessment for contributions to the budget of the International Seabed Authority for the financial period 2027–2028.
Friday 24 July 2026	10:00 am–1:00 pm	• Item 11: Negotiations on the Further Revised Consolidated Text. – Standard and Guidelines.²
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	• Item 11: Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. - 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.³ - Agreement on necessary intersessional work. • Adoption of draft decisions (as required). • Item 20: Dates of the next session. • End of the second part of the thirty-first session.

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

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