



Assembly

Advance Unedited Version

22 May 2026

English only

Twenty-ninth session

Kingston, 29 July–2 August 2024

Agenda item 8

**Annual report of the Secretary-General under article 166,
paragraph 4, of the Convention**

Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Addendum

1. At the thirty-first session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General confirmed that the months of May, June and July 2024 would be reported on in an addendum to the annual report. This addendum has been prepared for that purpose.
2. It is recalled that during the twenty-ninth session, the annual report of the Secretary-General was presented in two parts, a formal document under the symbol ISBA/29/A/2 and the second part in the form of an illustrated report entitled “Leading precautionary and responsible governance of the ocean global commons based on science, solidarity and transparency”, in English and in French (‘the 2024 illustrated report’). The 2024 illustrated report provided updates, as illustrated by the overview of the events that took place from July 2023 until June 2024. There was also an additional report on implementation of the Action Plan of the Authority in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (see ISBA/29/A/5). It is recalled that that report provided updates for the period from June 2023 to June 2024.
3. On 29 July 2024, the Secretary-General introduced his annual report and provided the following updates to the formal report (ISBA/29/A/2).
4. Regarding the membership of the Authority, the Secretary-General mentioned that San Marino’s accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 19 July 2024 would bring the membership of the Authority to 170.
5. In relation to the information to be submitted pursuant to Article 84 of the Convention, the Secretary-General indicated that Panama submitted such information on 23 June 2024.
6. In relation to permanent missions to the Authority, the Secretary-General also commended and welcome the fact that the number of permanent representatives to the Authority continued to increase. In addition to the then 39 Members that maintained a permanent mission to the Authority, the Secretary-General had welcomed new Permanent Representatives from Ghana and Fiji.

* This addendum is prepared as requested by the Assembly during the thirty session

7. A scientific workshop was held in June 2024 as a first step towards the identification of indicator species for the deep ocean. This was part of the ongoing implementation of the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative jointly funded by contributions from the European Commission, the Republic of Korea and Vietnam.

8. In May 2024, the Secretariat participated in the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda and organized two side events. The first was on leveraging partnerships to advance women's empowerment and leadership in deep-sea research to support sustainable ocean governance. The second side event focused on leveraging the knowledge, technology, innovation and capacities of small island developing States to advance deep-sea research for the benefit of humanity.

9. The Secretary-General also mentioned the in-person workshop of the intersessional expert group was held in Kingston from 27 to 29 June 2024 in Kingston for the members of the expert groups to develop environmental thresholds relating to underwater noise and light turbidity and toxicity. That in person meeting was convened in view of the need to align progress across the three subgroups effectively and enable discussions on possible interactions between the environmental pressures that might result from mining, an in-person meeting.
