

Item 19 of the provisional agenda*

Election to fill the vacancies on the Council, in accordance with article 161, paragraph 3, of the Convention

ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2027 TO 2030 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of one-half of the members of the Council for the period 2027 to 2030.

2. In accordance with section 3, paragraph 15, 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 Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group **[Group A]**;

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties, which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals **[Group B]**;

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies **[Group C]**;

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States **[Group D]**;

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Europe and Others **[Group E]**.

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asia-Pacific Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern

* ISBA/31/A/L.1/Rev.1

European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “*after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.*”¹ Therefore, for the period 2027 to 2030 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 48 member States.

- (a) For the year of 2027, the Group of African States would relinquish a seat.
- (b) For the year of 2028, the Group of Asia-Pacific States would relinquish a seat.
- (c) For the year of 2029, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would relinquish a seat.
- (d) For the year of 2030, the Group of Western European and other States would relinquish a seat.

4. As agreed, the regional group which relinquishes a seat has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without the right to vote during the period of relinquishment.

5. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 19 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2024. A vacancy-filling election was held during the twenty-ninth session when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years as from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028, subject to the understandings reached in the regional groups and interest groups (see ISBA/29/A/14):

Group A: China, Japan

Group B: India

Group C: Canada, South Africa

Group D: Bangladesh,² Brazil, Uganda

Group E: Argentina, Costa Rica, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the),³ Poland, Spain,⁴ Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,⁵ United Republic of Tanzania

II. Election for the period 2027 to 2030

6. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly, the terms of office of 18 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2026. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

¹ ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1.

² Bangladesh is re-elected for a period of four years (2025–2028), on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat in Group D to the Philippines for the year 2027.

³ The Kingdom of the Netherlands is elected for a four-year term (2025–2028) as a member of Group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat to Belgium for the year 2025 and to Norway for the years 2026 and 2028.

⁴ Spain is elected for a four-year term (2025–2028) as a member of Group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat to Portugal for the year 2025.

⁵ The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term (2025–2028) as a member of Group E, on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat to Ireland for the year 2025.

Group A (2 members)

7. Italy and the Russian Federation were elected on 4 August 2022 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2026. Therefore, two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2027 to 2030.

Group B (3 members)

8. France,⁶ Germany⁷ and the Republic of Korea were elected on 4 August 2022 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2026. Therefore, three vacancies will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2027 to 2030.

Group C (2 members)

9. Australia and Chile were elected on 4 August 2022 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2026. Therefore, two vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2027 to 2030.

Group D (3 members)

10. Fiji,⁸ Jamaica and Lesotho were elected on 4 August 2022 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2026. Therefore, three vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2025 to 2028.

Group E (8 members)

11. Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia,⁹ Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Tonga were elected on 4 August 2022 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2026. Therefore, eight vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2027 to 2030.

12. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period from 2025 to 2028 is provided as **Annex I**.

13. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority, which are potential members of the groups, defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the Agreement is provided as **Annex II**.

⁶ France is re-elected for a period of four years (2023-2026), on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat in Group B to the Netherlands for the year 2023.

⁷ Germany is re-elected for a period of four years (2023-2026), on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat in Group B to the Netherlands for the year 2025.

⁸ Fiji is re-elected for a period of four years (2023-2026), on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat in Group D to Nauru for the years 2025 and 2026.

⁹ Indonesia is re-elected in Group E for a period of four years (2023-2026), on the understanding that it will relinquish its seat in Group E to Nauru for the year 2023.

Annex I

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FROM 2025 TO 2028

	2025	2026	2027	2028
GROUP A (4 members)				
1	China	China	China	China
2	Italy	Italy		
3	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan
4	Russian Federation	Russian Federation		
GROUP B (4 members)				
5	France	France		
6	Netherlands	Germany		
7	India	India	India	India
8	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea		
GROUP C (4 members)				
9	Australia	Australia		
10	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada
11	Chile	Chile		
12	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa
GROUP D (6 members)				
13	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Philippines	Bangladesh
14	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil
15	Jamaica	Jamaica		
16	Lesotho	Lesotho		
17	Nauru	Nauru		
18	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda
GRUPE (18 members)				
19	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina
20	Cameroon	Cameroon		
21	Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Costa Rica
22	Ghana	Ghana		
23	Indonesia	Indonesia		
24	Mauritius	Mauritius	Mauritius	Mauritius
25	Mexico	Mexico		
26	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco	Morocco
27	Belgium	Norway	Netherlands	Norway
28	Nigeria	Nigeria		
29	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland
30	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone		
31	Portugal	Spain	Spain	Spain
32	Singapore	Singapore		
33	Tonga	Tonga		
34	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago
35	Ireland	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
36	United Republic of Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania

Annex II

INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT

GROUP A MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS (Derived from lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 of ISBA/31/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Gabon	Norway
Austria	Germany	Philippines
Belgium	India	Republic of Korea
Brazil	Indonesia	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	Italy	Spain
Canada	Japan	Thailand
China	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Cuba	Mexico	Zambia
Finland	Namibia	
France	Netherlands	

GROUP B MAJOR INVESTORS (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/31/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom
Czechia	Netherlands	

GROUP C MAJOR NET EXPORTERS AND DEVELOPING STATE MAJOR EXPORTERS (Derived from list 6 of ISBA/31/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	France	Mexico
Brazil	Gabon	Mongolia
Canada	Germany	Philippines
Chile	Ghana	Russian Federation
China	India	South Africa
Congo, Democratic Republic of,	Indonesia	United Kingdom
Cuba	Italy	Zambia
Finland	Malaysia	Zimbabwe

*This group should include at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies.

GROUP D
GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS

Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States. Derived under Group D section (Lists 7-13) of ISBA/31/A/CRP.2.

Albania	Grenada	Oman
Algeria	Guatemala	Pakistan
Angola	Guinea	Palau
Antigua and Barbuda	Guinea-Bissau	Papua New Guinea
Argentina	Guyana	Paraguay
Armenia	Haiti	Philippines, the
Azerbaijan	India	Qatar
Bahamas	Indonesia	Romania
Bahrain	Iraq	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Jamaica	Rwanda
Barbados	Jordan	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belize	Kiribati	Saint Lucia
Benin	Kuwait	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Kyrgyzstan	Samoa
Botswana	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sao Tome and Principe
Brazil	Lesotho	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Liberia	Serbia
Cameroon	Macedonia, North	Seychelles
Cape Verde	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Chad	Malawi	Singapore
Chile	Malaysia	Solomon Islands
China	Maldives	Somalia
Comoros	Mali	South Africa
Congo	Marshall Islands	Sri Lanka
Cook Islands	Mauritania	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Suriname
Cyprus	Mexico	Tanzania, United Republic of
Cuba	Micronesia, Federated States of	Timor-Leste
Congo, Democratic Rep of the	Moldova, Republic of	Thailand
Djibouti	Mongolia	Togo
Dominica	Montenegro	Tonga
Dominican Republic	Morocco	Trinidad and Tobago
Ecuador	Mozambique	Tuvalu
Egypt	Myanmar	Uganda
Eswatini	Namibia	Ukraine
Fiji	Nauru	Vanuatu
Gabon	Nepal	Viet Nam
Gambia, the	Niger	Yemen
Georgia	Nigeria	Zambia
Ghana	Niue	Zimbabwe

GROUP E					
MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS					
AFRICAN GROUP (48 MEMBERS)					
1	Algeria	17	Gabon	33	Niger
2	Angola	18	Gambia	34	Nigeria
3	Benin	19	Ghana	35	Rwanda
4	Botswana	20	Guinea	36	Sao Tome and Principe
5	Burkina Faso	21	Guinea-Bissau	37	Senegal
6	Cabo Verde	22	Kenya	38	Seychelles
7	Cameroon	23	Lesotho	39	Sierra Leone
8	Chad	24	Liberia	40	Somalia
9	Comoros	25	Madagascar	41	South Africa
10	Congo	26	Malawi	42	Sudan
11	Côte d'Ivoire	27	Mali	43	Togo
12	Congo, DR	28	Mauritania	44	Tunisia
13	Djibouti	29	Mauritius	45	Uganda
14	Egypt	30	Morocco	46	United Republic of Tanzania
15	Equatorial Guinea	31	Mozambique	47	Zambia
16	Eswatini	32	Namibia	48	Zimbabwe
ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (47 MEMBERS)					
1	Bahrain	17	Lebanon	33	Qatar
2	Bangladesh	18	Malaysia	34	Republic of Korea
3	Brunei Darussalam	19	Maldives	35	Samoa
4	Cambodia	20	Marshall Islands	36	Saudi Arabia
5	China	21	Micronesia (Federated States of)	37	Singapore
6	Cook Islands	22	Mongolia	38	Solomon Islands
7	Cyprus	23	Myanmar	39	Sri Lanka
8	Fiji	24	Nauru	40	State of Palestine
9	India	25	Nepal	41	Thailand
10	Indonesia	26	Niue	42	Timor-Leste
11	Iraq	27	Oman	43	Tonga
12	Japan	28	Pakistan	44	Tuvalu
13	Jordan	29	Palau	45	Vanuatu
14	Kiribati	30	Papua New Guinea	46	Vietnam
15	Kuwait	31	Philippines	47	Yemen
16	Kyrgyzstan	32	Lao People's Democratic Republic		
EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (23 MEMBERS)					
1	Albania	9	Estonia	17	Republic of Moldova
2	Armenia	10	Georgia	18	Romania
3	Azerbaijan	11	Hungary	19	Russian Federation
4	Belarus	12	Latvia	20	Serbia
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	Lithuania	21	Slovakia
6	Bulgaria	14	Montenegro	22	Slovenia
7	Croatia	15	North Macedonia	23	Ukraine
8	Czechia	16	Poland		

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES GROUP (29 MEMBERS)					
1	Antigua and Barbuda	11	Dominica	21	Nicaragua
2	Argentina	12	Dominican Republic	22	Panama
3	Bahamas	13	Ecuador	23	Paraguay
4	Barbados	14	Grenada	24	Saint Kitts and Nevis
5	Belize	15	Guatemala	25	Saint Lucia
6	Bolivia	16	Guyana	26	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
7	Brazil	17	Haiti	27	Suriname
8	Chile	18	Honduras	28	Trinidad and Tobago
9	Costa Rica	19	Jamaica	29	Uruguay
10	Cuba	20	Mexico		
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES GROUP (24 MEMBERS)					
1	Australia	9	Greece	17	New Zealand
2	Austria	10	Iceland	18	Norway
3	Belgium	11	Ireland	19	Portugal
4	Canada	12	Italy	20	San Marino
5	Denmark	13	Luxembourg	21	Spain
6	Finland	14	Malta	22	Sweden
7	France	15	Monaco	23	Switzerland
8	Germany	16	Netherlands	24	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland