



Council

Advance Unedited Version
10 July 2026

English only

Thirty-first session

Council session, part II

Kingston, 13-24 July 2026

Agenda item 10

Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extension of a contract for exploration, if any

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application for extension of the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides between China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission.¹

Recalling that, on 18 November 2011, the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides with the International Seabed Authority,

Noting that, on 15 May 2026, the Secretary-General of the Authority received an application for a five-year extension of the contract from China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association,

Recalling section 1, paragraph 9, 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 1982,²

Recalling also the decision of the Council of the Authority 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 Agreement,³

Considering the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association for extension of the contract,⁴

1. *Decides* to approve the application for extension of the contract;

¹ ISBA/31/C/27

² United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

³ ISBA/21/C/19

⁴ ISBA/31/C/27

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 18 November 2026, by signature of an agreement in the form set out in appendix II to the annex to the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority mentioned above;⁵

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next session on the status of the extension agreement.

⁵ [ISBA/21/C/19](#)