



Council

Advance Unedited Version

24 July 2026

English only

Thirty-first session

Council session, part II

Kingston, 13-24 July 2026

Agenda item 11

**Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft
regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area**

Draft Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority on the approach to the continuation of the elaboration of rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation and resolution of the remaining key outstanding issues

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Reiterating that the commercial exploitation of mineral resources in the Area should not be carried out in the absence of rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation,

Recognising the progress made towards resolving the remaining key outstanding issues in the elaboration of rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation,

Recalling decision ISBA/30/C/18, the draft indicative list of outstanding issues ISBA/31/C/CRP.4, and the updated draft indicative list of outstanding issues ISBA/31/C/CRP.7,

Emphasising the importance of a predictable work programme and intersessional work with active participation from all delegations,

Taking note of Council decision ISBA/31/C/34 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission,

1. Requests the Secretariat to draft a roadmap for consideration at the first part of the thirty-second session of the Council setting out milestones for the timely adoption of the rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation and an updated indicative list of key outstanding issues that require further thematic discussion by the Council, having regard to progress made and the need for prioritisation.

2. Further requests the Secretariat to share the draft roadmap referred to in paragraph 1 by 31 October 2026, organise webinars to present it, provide for written comments on it to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 December 2026 and share an updated draft at least one month in advance of the first part of the thirty-second session;
3. Requests the Secretariat to provide an advanced negotiating text, which harmonises and streamlines the further revised consolidated text, and takes into account discussions and outcomes achieved during the thirty-first session as well as subsequent intersessional input, and upload it to the website of the International Seabed Authority at least six weeks in advance of the first part of the thirty-second session;
4. Calls on Member States, during the intersessional period in advance of the thirty-second session, to participate in an informal working group to discuss updates to working methods to enable the Council to focus on the key issues that require further thematic discussion and seek to avoid a line-by-line reading of the draft exploitation regulations, and requests that the facilitator of the informal working group report back to the Council on the discussions;
5. Calls on Member States to actively participate in intersessional work and requests those informal working groups and Friends of the President groups for which facilitators have already been identified to continue their work on the relevant regulations and identify, where necessary, key outstanding issues requiring further thematic discussion by the Council at the thirty-second session;
6. Requests the Secretariat to provide an Indicative Programme of Work (IPW) for the first part of the thirty-second session focusing the Council's consideration on the key outstanding issues that require further thematic discussion, and to circulate the IPW at least one month in advance of the first part of that session.