



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 nodules with Nauru Ocean Resources Inc

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

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

Recalling that, on 22 July 2011, Nauru Ocean Resources Inc entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the International Seabed Authority,

Noting that, on 19 January 2026, the Secretary-General of the Authority received an application for a five-year extension of the contract from Nauru Ocean Resources Inc,

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 Nauru Ocean Resources Inc for extension of the contract,⁴

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

¹ ISBA/31/C/26

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

³ ISBA/21/C/19

⁴ ISBA/31/C/26

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 22 July 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](#)