



Assembly

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Agenda items 6 and 7

Guidelines for observer status of contractors with the Authority

Consideration of requests for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Assembly

Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning interim arrangements in respect of requests for observer status submitted by contractors for consideration during the thirty-first session

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Noting the statement by the President on the work of the Assembly of the Authority at its thirtieth session¹ and the note prepared by the Secretary-General of the Authority,² and taking into account the diverging views among the members of the Authority with respect to contractors being granted observer status with the Authority, including the interpretation of paragraph 12 of the note by the Secretary-General, and the need for more time to consider this issue,

Bearing in mind existing modalities to allow specific stakeholders of the Authority to attend the meetings of the Authority, such as media access, which are presently administered by the secretariat through administrative arrangements, including modalities that are not covered by rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat, on an interim basis and without setting a precedent, to make appropriate arrangements for the contractors referred to in documents [ISBA/31/A/INF/12](#), [ISBA/31/A/INF/13](#), [ISBA/31/A/INF/14](#) and [ISBA/31/A/INF/15](#), to sit at the public meetings of the thirty-second session of the Assembly, in their individual capacity as contractors, and to provide information on the website of the Authority for this specific arrangement;

¹ [ISBA/30/A/14](#).

² [ISBA/31/A/7](#).



2. *Encourages* organizations, including contractors, to refrain from seeking simultaneous accreditation on multiple delegations;

3. *Decides* that the arrangements set out in paragraph 1 above should not be construed as the granting of observer status pursuant to rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

4. *Agrees* that each contractor referred to in paragraph 1 above may make oral statements upon the invitation of the President of the Assembly and subject to the approval of the Assembly on matters within the scope of their activities;

5. *Also agrees* to continue, with the support of the secretariat, the discussion of the attendance of contractors at meetings of the Assembly, including in their individual capacity or through associations of contractors, intersessionally and through the facilitation of the delegations of Samoa and Switzerland, with a view to producing a report setting out draft guidelines for the further consideration of the Assembly at its next session;

6. *Further agrees* to include in the agenda for the thirty-second session of the Assembly an item to consider the facilitators' intersessional work report referred to in paragraph 5 above.

*234th meeting
31 July 2026*
