



Assembly

Advance Unedited Version
31 July 2026

English only

Thirty-first session

Kingston, 27-31 July 2026

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 on of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concerning interim arrangement 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 30th session in ISBA/30/A/14 and the note prepared by the Secretary-General in ISBA/31/A/7; 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 ISBA/30/A/14, 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 those not pursuant to Rule 82 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;

1. *Request* the Secretariat, on an interim basis and without setting a precedent, to make appropriate arrangements for the contractors referred to in 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 32nd Session of the Assembly, in their individual capacity as contractors, and provide information on the website of the Authority for such distinct arrangement.

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

3. *Decides* that such arrangements under paragraph 1 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 may make oral statements upon the invitation of the President and subject to the approval of the Assembly on matters within the scope of their activities.

5. *Agrees* to continue, with the support of the Secretariat, the discussion of the attendance of contractors to the meetings of the Assembly, including in their individual capacity or through associations of contractors, intersessionally and under the facilitation of the delegations of Samoa and Switzerland, with the view to produce a report including draft guidelines for the Assembly for further consideration at its next meeting.

6. *Agrees* to include in the agenda for the 32nd Session of the Assembly an item to consider the facilitators intersessional work report referred to in paragraph 5.

234th meeting
31 July 2026