

**ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ARTICLE 161, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION**

Note by the Secretariat

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This informal paper has been prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the forthcoming election of one-half of the members of the Council for the period 2015 to 2020.

2. In accordance with paragraph 15, of section 3, 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 (“the Agreement”), the Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority, elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals<sup>1</sup> to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group **[Group A]**;

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals **[Group B]**;

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<sup>1</sup> In this document the statistics used relate to the primary production of nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese from areas under the jurisdiction of States parties and exports of said ores.

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies **[Group C]**;

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States **[Group D]**;

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Western Europe and Others **[Group E]**.

3. During the election for the first members of the Council, it was agreed to allocate 10 seats on the Council to the African Group, 9 seats to the Asian Group, 8 seats to the Western European and Others Group, 7 seats to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 3 seats to the Eastern European Group. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was also agreed that each regional group other than the Eastern European Group would relinquish a seat in rotation in the first four years of the Council. As part of the understanding reached in 1996 concerning the composition of the Council, it was agreed that “after the first four years, the principle of burden-sharing, on an equal and equitable basis, shall continue to be respected involving the five regional groups and taking into account the situation at that time, in particular the effect of the termination of the provisional membership in the Assembly.”<sup>2</sup> It is understood, therefore, that for the period 2017 to 2020 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group should relinquish a seat in rotation in the following manner:

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<sup>2</sup> ISBA/A/L.8 and Corr.1. The relinquishment of one seat in rotation was done to accommodate an extra seat for the African Group, which was in 1996 the largest regional group. Currently, the African Group is still the largest regional group, with 47 member States.

- (a) In the first year (2017), the African Group would occupy nine seats;
- (b) In the second year (2018), the Asia and Pacific Group would occupy eight seats;
- (c) In the third year (2019), the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Group would occupy six seats;
- (d) In the fourth year (2020), the Western European and Others Group would occupy seven seats.

As agreed, the regional group which relinquishes a seat has the right to designate a member of that group to participate in the deliberation of the Council without a vote during the period of relinquishment.

4. Pursuant to article 161, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), the terms of office of 20 members of the Council expired on 31 December 2012. A vacancy-filling election was held on 27 July 2014 when the following States were elected to the Council for a period of four years each from 2015 through 2018, subject to the understandings reached in the interest groups and regional groups (ISBA/20/A/8):

- Group A: Italy<sup>3</sup>, Russian Federation
- Group B: France, Germany<sup>4</sup>, Republic of Korea
- Group C: Australia<sup>5</sup>, Chile<sup>6</sup>
- Group D: Fiji, Jamaica, Lesotho
- Group E: Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia<sup>7</sup>, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore, Tonga.

## II. ELECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2020

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<sup>3</sup> Italy would relinquish its seat in Group A in favour of the United States of America if the United States became a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election to the Council.

<sup>4</sup> Germany is re-elected for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that Belgium will occupy the seat in Group B for the year 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Australia is re-elected for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that in 2017 it will relinquish its seat in Group C to Indonesia. Australia will be a member of Group E in 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Chile is re-elected for a period of four years (2015-2018), on the understanding that in 2018 it will relinquish its seat in Group C to Indonesia. Chile will be a member of Group E in 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Indonesia was re-elected to the Council for a period of four years (2015-2018) on the understanding that in 2017 it will relinquish its seat in Group E to Australia and will occupy the seat in Group C relinquished by Australia, and in 2018 Indonesia will relinquish its seat in Group E to Chile and will occupy the seat in Group C relinquished by Chile

5. In accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Assembly, the terms of office of 17 of the members of the Council will end on 31 December 2016. The changes that are foreseen in each of the 5 groups in the Council are described in the following paragraphs.

#### **Group A (4 members)**

6. The current composition of Group A is **Japan** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), the **Russian Federation** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **Italy** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **China** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016). Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group A for the period 2017 to 2020.

#### **Group B (4 members)**

7. The current composition of Group B is **India** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), the **Republic of Korea** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **France** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018) and **Germany** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018). One vacancy will need to be filled in Group B for the period 2017 to 2020.

#### **Group C (4 members)**

8. The current composition of Group C is **Australia** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018)<sup>8</sup>, **South Africa** (elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Canada** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Chile** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018)<sup>9</sup>. Two vacancies will need to be filled in Group C for the period 2017 to 2020.

#### **Group D (6 members)**

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<sup>8</sup> See: N.5 above

<sup>9</sup> See: N.6 above

9. The current composition of Group D is **Bangladesh** (elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Brazil** (re-elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Uganda** (elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Fiji** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016), **Jamaica** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018), **Lesotho** (re-elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018). Three vacancies will need to be filled in Group D for the period 2017 to 2020.

#### **Group E (18 members)**

10. The current composition of Group E is Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Kenya, Poland, United Kingdom, Norway<sup>10</sup>, Spain, Argentina, the Czech Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago (re-elected/elected in 2012 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2016). Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia<sup>11</sup>, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore and Tonga were elected in 2014 for a four-year term expiring on 31 December 2018). Twelve vacancies will need to be filled in Group E for the period 2017 to 2020.

11. A table showing the composition of the Council during the period 2014 to 2020 is provided as **Annex I**.

12. An indicative list of States members of the International Seabed Authority which are potential members of the groups defined in paragraph 15, sub-paragraphs (a) through (e) of the agreement is provided as **Annex II**.

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<sup>10</sup> Norway replaced the Netherlands after Netherlands had occupied the seat in Group E for 3 years.

<sup>11</sup> See: N.7 above

## ANNEX 1

Srl	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Group A (4 members)</b>							
1	Japan	Japan	Japan				
2	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation		
4	China	China	China				
4	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy		
<b>Group B (4 members)</b>							
5	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea		
6	India	India	India				
7	France	France	France	France	France		
8	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany		
<b>Group C (4 members)</b>							
9	Australia	Australia	Australia	Indonesia	Australia		
10	Indonesia	Chile	Chile	Chile	Indonesia		
11	Canada	Canada	Canada				
12	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa				
<b>Group D (6 members)</b>							
13	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil				
14	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh				
15	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica		
16	Sudan	Uganda	Uganda				
17	Egypt	Egypt	Egypt	Lesotho	Lesotho		
18	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji		
<b>Group E (18 members)</b>							
19	Angola	Mozambique	Mozambique				
20	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia				
21	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal				
22	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria		
23	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon		
24	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana		
25	Kenya	Kenya	Kenya				
26	Viet Nam	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore		
27	Sri Lanka	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga		
28	Poland	Poland	Poland				
29	United Kingdom <sup>12</sup>	Norway	United Kingdom				
30	Netherlands	Netherlands <sup>13</sup>	Norway				
31	Norway	Spain	Spain <sup>14</sup>				
32	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic				
33	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina				
34	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Australia	Chile		
35	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico		
36	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana				
37	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago				

<sup>12</sup> The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after two years to Norway for the year 2015. ISBA/18/A/10.

<sup>13</sup> The Netherlands is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after three years to Norway for the remainder of the four-year term (2016). ISBA/18/A/10.

<sup>14</sup> Spain is elected for a four-year term as a member of group E with the understanding that it will relinquish its seat after one year to Norway for the year 2014. ISBA/18/A/10.

**ANNEX II**

**INDICATIVE LIST OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH ARE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 15, SUB-PARAGRAPHS (A) THROUGH (E) OF THE AGREEMENT**

<b>GROUP A</b> <b>MAJOR CONSUMERS OR MAJOR NET IMPORTERS</b> (Derived from lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 of ISBA/22/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	France	Republic of Korea
Belgium	Gabon	Norway
Bolivia	Germany	Russian Federation
Brazil	India	South Africa
China	Italy	Spain
Finland	Japan	

<b>GROUP B</b> <b>MAJOR INVESTORS</b> (Derived from list 5 of ISBA/22/A/CRP.2)		
Belgium	France	Poland
Bulgaria	Germany	Republic of Korea
Canada	India	Russian Federation
China	Italy	Slovakia
Cuba	Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Czech Republic	Netherlands	

<b>GROUP C</b> <b>MAJOR NET EXPORTERS AND DEVELOPING STATE MAJOR EXPORTERS</b> (Derived from list 6 of ISBA/22/A/CRP.2)		
Australia	Germany	South Africa
Canada	Indonesia	Russian Federation
Chile	Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
China		

**GROUP D  
GROUP OF SPECIAL INTERESTS**

(Developing States with large populations; developing States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged; developing island States; developing States which are potential producers; developing States which are major importers; least developed States. Derived from lists 6 to 13 of ISBA/22/A/CRP.2. Countries in *italics* are non-members of the ISA)

Algeria	Haiti	Grenada
Angola	India	Philippines, the
Antigua and Barbuda	Indonesia	Republic of Korea
Argentina	Iraq	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bahamas	Jamaica	Saint Lucia
Bahrain	Jordan	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Bangladesh	Kiribati	Samoa
Barbados	Kuwait	Sao Tome and Principe
Belize	Lao People's Democratic Republic,	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Liberia	Senegal
Bolivia	Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	Serbia
Botswana	Madagascar	Seychelles
Brazil	Malaysia	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Maldives	Singapore
Cape Verde	Mali	Solomon Islands
Chad	Malta	Somalia
Chile	Marshall Islands, the	South Africa
China	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Comoros	Mauritius	State of Palestine
Congo	Mexico	Sudan
Cook Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Suriname
Côte d'Ivoire	Mongolia	Trinidad and Tobago
Cyprus	Montenegro	Togo
Cuba	Mozambique	Tonga
Democratic Republic of	Myanmar	Tuvalu
Djibouti	Nauru	Uganda
Dominica	Nepal	United Republic of Tanzania
Dominican Republic	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Equatorial Guinea	Niue	Yemen
Fiji	Oman	Zambia
Gabon	Pakistan	
Gambia, the	Palau	
Ghana	Papua New Guinea	
Guinea		
Guinea-Bissau		



## GROUP E

### MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS (Derived from list 14 of ISBA/22/A/CRP.2)

<b>AFRICAN GROUP (47 Members)</b>					
1	Algeria	17	Gambia	33	Nigeria
2	Angola	18	Ghana	34	Sao Tome and Principe
3	Benin	19	Guinea	35	Senegal
4	Botswana	20	Guinea-Bissau	36	Seychelles
5	Burkina Faso	21	Kenya	37	Sierra Leone
6	Cameroon	22	Lesotho	38	Somalia
7	Cape Verde	23	Liberia	39	South Africa
8	Chad	24	Madagascar	40	Sudan
9	Comoros	25	Malawi	41	Swaziland
10	Congo	26	Mali	42	Togo
11	Côte d'Ivoire	27	Mauritania	43	Tunisia
12	Democratic Republic of the Congo	28	Mauritius	44	Uganda
13	Djibouti	29	Morocco	45	United Republic of Tanzania
14	Egypt	30	Mozambique	46	Zambia
15	Equatorial Guinea	31	Namibia	47	Zimbabwe
16	Gabon	32	Niger		

<b>ASIA PACIFIC GROUP (45 Members)</b>					
1	Bahrain	16	Lebanon	31	Qatar
2	Bangladesh	17	Malaysia	32	Republic of Korea
3	Brunei Darussalam	18	Maldives	33	Samoa
4	China	19	Marshall Islands	34	Saudi Arabia
5	Cook Islands	20	Micronesia (Federated States of)	35	Singapore
6	Cyprus	21	Mongolia	36	Solomon Islands
7	Fiji	22	Myanmar	37	Sri Lanka
8	India	23	Nauru	38	State of Palestine
9	Indonesia	24	Nepal	39	Thailand
10	Iraq	25	Niue	40	Timor-Leste
11	Japan	26	Oman	41	Tonga
12	Jordan	27	Pakistan	42	Tuvalu
13	Kiribati	27	Palau	43	Vanuatu
14	Kuwait	29	Papua New Guinea	44	Viet Nam
15	Lao People's Democratic Republic	30	Philippines	45	Yemen

EASTERN EUROPEAN (22 Members)					
1	Albania	9	Georgia	16	Romania
2	Armenia	10	Hungary	17	Russian Federation
3	Belarus	11	Latvia	18	Serbia
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	Lithuania	19	Slovakia
5	Bulgaria	13	Montenegro	20	Slovenia
6	Croatia	14	Poland	21	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
7	Czech Republic	15	Republic of Moldova	22	Ukraine
8	Estonia				

GROUP OF LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN COUNTRIES (29 Members)					
1	Antigua and Barbuda	12	Dominica	21	Nicaragua
2	Argentina	13	Dominican Republic	22	Panama
3	Bahamas	14	Ecuador	23	Paraguay
4	Barbados	15	El Salvador	24	Saint Kitts and Nevis
5	Belize	16	Grenada	25	Saint Lucia
6	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	17	Guatemala	26	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
7	Brazil	18	Guyana	27	Suriname
8	Chile	19	Haiti	28	Trinidad and Tobago
9	Colombia	20	Honduras	29	Uruguay
10	Costa Rica	21	Jamaica		
11	Cuba	22	Mexico		

WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS GROUP (23 Members)					
1	Australia	9	Greece	17	New Zealand
2	Austria	10	Iceland	18	Norway
3	Belgium	11	Ireland	19	Portugal
4	Canada	12	Italy	20	Spain
5	Denmark	13	Luxembourg	21	Sweden
6	Finland	14	Malta	22	Switzerland
7	France	15	Monaco	23	United Kingdom
8	Germany	16	Netherlands		