



Council

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Kingston, 11-22 July 2016

Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling its decision [ISBA/21/C/20](#),

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the twenty-second session;
2. *Welcomes* the Commission's work on the framework for the exploitation regulations, in particular the provision of the first working draft of the exploitation regulations, and requests the Commission to continue its work on exploitation regulations as a matter of priority;
3. *Endorses* the Commission's list of priority deliverables for the development of the exploitation code over the next 12 to 18 months, as set out in annex II to document [ISBA/22/C/17](#);
4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the contractors for their valuable commitment to bringing about a substantial increase in the number of training programmes over the coming five years, noting that the number might reach as high as 200, and takes note with satisfaction that, to manage the substantial workload relating to the training programmes, a position in the secretariat focused on training has been included in the next proposed budget of the Authority;
5. *Takes note* of the detailed and substantive consideration given to the six applications for extension of exploration contracts, especially the consideration of whether contractors had made efforts in good faith to comply with the requirements of the contract for exploration but, for reasons beyond the contractors' control, had been unable to complete the preparatory work necessary for proceeding to the exploitation stage, or if the prevailing economic conditions did not justify proceeding to the exploitation stage;
6. *Reiterates* the importance of appendix I, paragraph 1, of the decision contained in document [ISBA/21/C/19](#) relating to information to be contained in an application for extension of a contract for exploration;



7. *Notes* the Commission's recommendation on the need to ensure the consistent application of the existing procedures formulated by the Secretary-General, and decides that the additional procedures for the handling of confidential data and information contained in annex II to the Secretary-General's Bulletin [ISBA/ST/SGB/2011/03](#) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Commission;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* for the report of the Chair of the Commission to the Council regarding the review of the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone;

9. *Notes* that a workshop to review the implementation of the plan was to be convened before the twenty-second session, in 2016, and requests that that workshop be convened before the twenty-third session, in 2017;

10. *Also notes* the Commission's decision to consider holding a scientific workshop together with marine reserve/management specialists to determine the suitability or need for amendment of the areas of particular environmental interest, and to consider holding a workshop on impact reference zones and preservation reference zones, and encourages the secretariat to work closely with the Commission to determine suitable timing for those workshops and to ensure the broadest participation of all concerned States Parties;

11. *Further encourages* the Commission and the secretariat to make progress on the development of environmental management plans in other international seabed area zones, in particular where there are currently exploration contracts, recalling paragraph 60 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/235;

12. *Requests* all contractors to make their environmental data readily and publicly available;

13. *Requests* the Commission to review the provisions of the regulations on prospecting and exploration relating to the option of offering an equity interest in a joint venture arrangement with a view to aligning all regulations in that respect, and to make a recommendation thereon for consideration by the Council at its next session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate time and resources continue to be made available to support the work of the Commission, especially on priority issues;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to update the Council on the implementation of the present decision at its twenty-third session, in 2017, and that that update be incorporated into the Council's agenda as a standing item.

220th meeting
19 July 2016