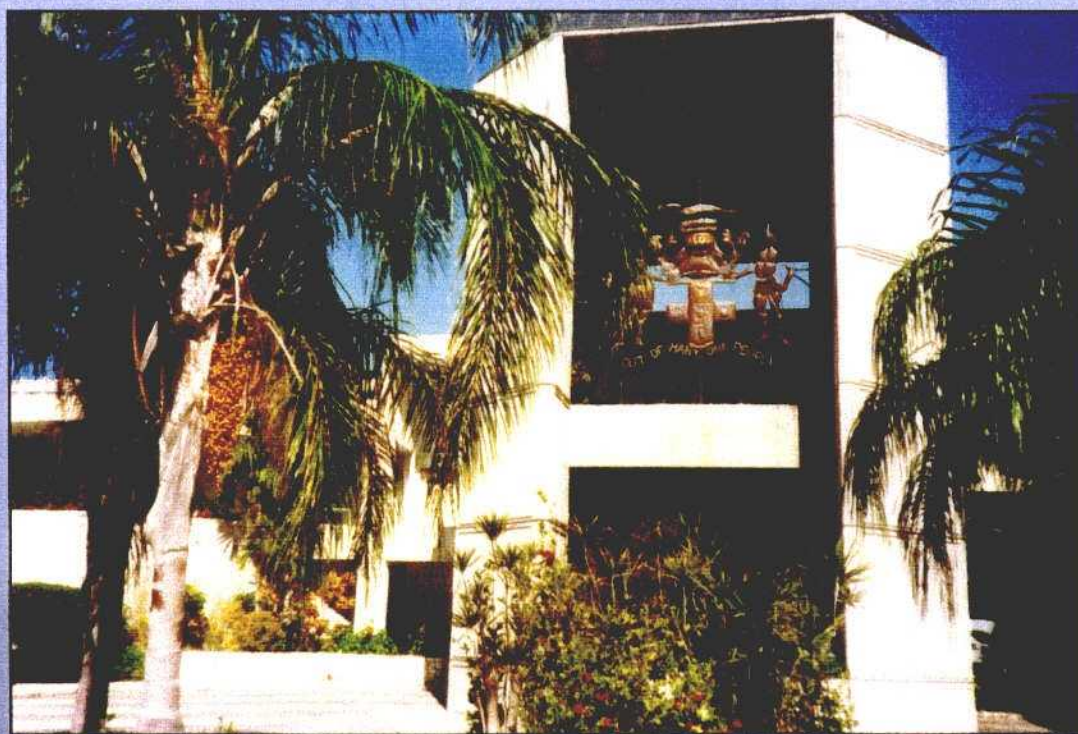


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(II)

INFORME SOBRE EL SEXTO PERIODO DE SESIONES (SEGUNDA PARTE) DE LA AUTORIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE LOS FONDOS MARINOS

KINGSTON (JAMAICA) 3 AL 14 DE JULIO DE 2000



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA
Y TECNOLOGÍA



Instituto Tecnológico
GeoMinero de España

ASISTENCIA AL VI PERIODO DE SESIONES (SEGUNDA PARTE) DE LA AUTORIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE LOS FONDOS MARINOS

INTRODUCCIÓN

La segunda parte del Sexto Periodo de Sesiones de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos se ha desarrollado, tal como estaba previsto, del 3 al 14 de julio de 2000 en Kingston (Jamaica), con un programa de trabajo muy denso y con unas perspectivas preliminares poco prometedoras, sobre todo en lo concerniente al Código Minero para la exploración de los nódulos polimetálicos. No obstante, las dificultades pudieron resolverse y el balance global de las sesiones se puede considerar como fructífero.

DESARROLLO DE LAS SESIONES

Asamblea y Consejo

Con un programa de trabajo indicativo, aprobado por la Asamblea en su primera reunión, el Consejo reanudó los debates sobre las cuestiones aún no resueltas del Código Minero.

El punto de partida era el documento *Proyecto revisado de reglamento sobre la prospección y exploración de nódulos polimetálicos en la Zona (ISBA/6/C/2)*, redactado al finalizar la primera parte de este Periodo de Sesiones, que trataba de conciliar protección del medio con confidencialidad de los datos. Además, el Presidente recordó la inutilidad de retornar a cuestiones ya aprobadas y la necesidad de adoptar unas posturas de consenso que permitieran aprobar, en el año en curso, el Código Minero.

Con ánimo de llegar en un plazo breve a esas posiciones de concordia, los debates se llevaron a cabo, desde el primer día, en sesiones de carácter informal, pero los resultados al final de la primera semana fueron desalentadores. A ello contribuyeron,

en buena medida, las posturas intransigentes de ciertas delegaciones que no admitían modificaciones a sus propuestas, como las de la delegación de Chile sobre las garantías de respuesta a los daños en el medio marino provocados por la actividad exploratoria.

Sin embargo, durante la segunda semana y tras diversas consultas officiosas y reuniones a puerta cerrada, se pudo llegar a proposiciones más constructivas partiendo de esas obstinadas actitudes iniciales.

Finalmente, el Consejo, en la sesión oficial del día 13 de julio, adoptó la aplicación provisional, hasta su aprobación por la Asamblea, del *Reglamento relativo a la prospección y exploración de nódulos polimetálicos en la Zona (ISBA/6/C/8)*.

Los restantes asuntos pendientes que contemplaba el programa de trabajo, tras ser analizados y debatidos en mayor o menor amplitud, fueron recomendados para su aprobación por la Asamblea; es decir: modificaciones de los artículos 6 y 53 del Reglamento de la Comisión Jurídica y Técnica, Estatuto del Personal de la Autoridad, presupuesto para el ejercicio económico 2001-2002 y otras cuestiones de menor importancia.

En el Estatuto del Personal de la Autoridad los artículos referidos a las incompatibilidades (especialmente los artículos 1.3 y 1.4 y las modificaciones que previamente había introducido el Comité de Finanzas) fueron los que suscitaron mayor controversia.

El Consejo, tras examinar el informe del Comité de Finanzas y la auditoría de la firma KPMG Peat Marwick, aprobó y recomendó a la Asamblea un presupuesto de 10,5 M USD para el bienio 2001-2002. La escala de cuotas se establecerá siguiendo el mismo sistema de cálculo utilizado para las contribuciones del presupuesto ordinario de las Naciones Unidas, dentro de un rango establecido por la Autoridad.

Finalmente, todas las propuestas presentadas por el Consejo a la Asamblea se aprobaron en la productiva sesión final del día 13 de julio.

Asimismo en esta sesión, se convocó el Séptimo Periodo de Sesiones, a celebrar del 2 al 13 de julio de 2001, para el que se avanzó un programa tentativo que incluye, entre otros asuntos ordinarios, el comienzo de los debates sobre un código minero de exploración para yacimientos de otras tipologías y la renovación de los miembros de la Comisión Jurídica y Técnica y del Comité Financiero.

Informe del Secretario General

El Secretario General en su informe correspondiente al periodo 1999-2000, expuesto ante la Asamblea, puso un especial interés en resaltar que una de las principales funciones de la Autoridad es la de *fomentar las actividades científicas en la Zona y difundir los resultados*. Por lo tanto, una vez completada la estructura administrativa del Organismo, las actividades científicas y técnicas irán progresivamente adquiriendo mayor peso.

Siguiendo esta idea recordó que, una vez aprobado el Código Minero por la Asamblea, la Autoridad firmará los primeros contratos con los siete primeros inversionistas, cuyos planes de exploración ya habían sido aprobados, y desde ese momento *la supervisión de los diversos proyectos será una de las tareas fundamentales del Organismo*.

En relación con los nódulos polimetálicos, la gestión del considerable volumen de información oceanográfica, geológica, metalogenética, tecnológica, de estimación de recursos etc. , disponible sobre las zonas reservadas, ha llevado al establecimiento de una base de datos, denominada POLYDAT.

Además, como el conocimiento sobre otras regiones de la Zona se ha ido ampliando paulatinamente, actualmente existen otras fuentes de datos, por ejemplo en los Estados Unidos de América, que incluyen información relativa no sólo a los nódulos, sino también a otras tipologías de yacimientos. La incorporación de estos datos a POLYDAT, para crear un gran fondo central de datos, exige unas tareas previas de rescate de información y homogeneización de estructuras de bases de datos, que la Autoridad se propone desarrollar durante los dos próximos años.

En paralelo a estas actividades, se creará una base de datos ambientales del medio marino en las áreas de la Zona reservadas por la Autoridad, directamente o a instancias de planes de trabajo de empresas, que servirá como guía de referencia, o estado cero, a la hora de evaluar los informes sobre el control del impacto ambiental en las operaciones de exploración y, más tarde, en las de explotación.

Informe de la Comisión Jurídica y Técnica

El presidente de la Comisión Jurídica y Técnica informó al Consejo sobre los diversos asuntos tratados en sus reuniones a lo largo de este Periodo de Sesiones. Del informe presentado cabe destacar:

- Se ha continuado trabajando en la elaboración de un proyecto, iniciado durante el Quinto Periodo de Sesiones, sobre las recomendaciones para la evaluación de los impactos ambientales producidos por la exploración de los nódulos polimetálicos en la Zona.
- Se ha iniciado la preparación de un documento, a instancias del Secretario General, con el objetivo de constituir un marco de cooperación internacional para la protección del medio marino en relación con la actividad exploradora y explotadora de los recursos minerales de la Zona. La Comisión ha aconsejado al Secretario General que emprenda negociaciones con diversos organismos internacionales y con los primeros inversionistas para tratar de implicarlos en este proyecto
- De cara a las próximas elecciones para la renovación de la Comisión, se sugiere a los Estados miembros, a la hora de presentar sus candidatos, que tengan en cuenta la conveniencia de mantener un equilibrio entre las especialidades requeridas y la representatividad geográfica.

Elecciones para el Consejo

Aunque formalmente la elección de los nuevos representantes para el Consejo tuvo lugar en la última sesión de la Asamblea, los acuerdos se fueron cerrando en consultas informales, que ya habían comenzado en la primera parte de este Periodo de

Sesiones, y en reuniones cerradas de los diferentes grupos que en el caso de España ha sido, por su situación geográfica, el de Países del Oeste Europeo y Otros.

Si bien al finalizar las sesiones de marzo las posibilidades de España para ocupar un puesto en el Consejo eran escasas, las negociaciones emprendidas a tal fin, previamente y durante las sesiones de julio, fueron provechosas y se consiguió la propuesta como candidato al grupo E, para el cuatrienio 2001-2004; propuesta que fue aprobada en la sesión de la Asamblea del día 13 de julio de 2000.

RESUMEN Y ANÁLISIS

- La aprobación por la Asamblea del *Reglamento relativo a la exploración de nódulos polimetálicos en la Zona (ISBA 6/A/18)* representa un hito sustancial en las actividades que la Autoridad, desde su formación en 1994, ha venido desarrollando hasta el día de hoy. A partir de ese hecho, las tareas técnicas y científicas deberán incrementarse respecto de las estrictamente administrativas.
- En un plazo breve se firmarán los contratos, con los primeros inversionistas, para la exploración de las zonas demarcadas y aunque la Autoridad emprenderá sus labores de supervisión con una casi absoluta carencia de medios técnicos, se debería evitar una excesiva dependencia de los grupos industriales o Estados involucrados en los proyectos de exploración.
- El citado Reglamento, o Código Minero, se puede considerar como el primer paso en la redacción de un hipotético Régimen Jurídico para la Minería de la Zona, que regularía las distintas fases de los proyectos mineros, desde la exploración hasta el aprovechamiento de los recursos descubiertos y no sólo de nódulos polimetálicos, sino igualmente de otras tipologías de yacimientos.
- La Comisión Jurídica y Técnica está llevando a cabo un proyecto de recomendaciones sobre evaluación de los impactos ocasionados, en el medio marino, por las prospecciones de nódulos polimetálicos en la Zona. Es de suponer

que el proyecto no se limite a establecer una normativa complementaria del Código Minero (artículos 31 y 38), sino que avance más y en un futuro se transforme en un Reglamento de Protección del Medio Marino con identidad propia y acorde con el Código Minero.

- Asimismo, la Comisión trabaja en la organización de un ámbito de cooperación internacional para la protección del medio marino, en la Zona, afectado por las posibles actividades exploradoras y explotadoras. Es evidente que existe una inquietud en la Autoridad por evitar, o atenuar, las previsibles alteraciones del medio que provocarían las extracciones de los recursos minerales de los fondos marinos, y no solamente desde un punto de vista medioambiental, sino que también se trata de eludir el proporcionar argumentos poderosos a los países con intereses contrarios a esas actividades. Esta voluntad de defensa del medio queda reflejada en las recomendaciones de la Comisión para sus próximas elecciones, sobre el perfil deseable para algunos de los candidatos.
- Se ha aprobado un presupuesto bianual de 10,5M USD y el mantenimiento de la escala de costes del anterior ejercicio. Este baremo, como se comentaba en el informe de la primera parte de este Periodo de Sesiones, no parece el más idóneo para una organización con objetivos económicos. En el caso concreto de España, con este sistema de reparto de cargas, se produce la extraña situación de un país en el que ninguna entidad, tanto del sector público como del privado, ha manifestado tener algún interés en el aprovechamiento de los recursos minerales de los fondos marinos y sin embargo es el 5º Estado contribuyente de un total de 133 signatarios de la Parte XI.
- España ha resultado elegida como miembro de pleno derecho para el Consejo en el grupo de Distribución Geográfica (grupo E), sin que por ello deba renunciar a acceder, en un futuro próximo, al grupo de Mayores Consumidores (grupo A).

CONSIDERACIONES SOBRE LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE ESPAÑA

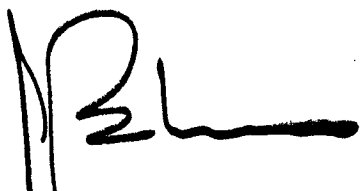
La participación de España, tras haber conseguido ingresar en el Consejo, debería ser mucho más activa de lo que ha sido durante los últimos años.

Las tareas por venir son importantes: en las próximas sesiones, entre otros asuntos, se debatirán la aplicación del Código Minero a otras tipologías de yacimientos, la guía para la evaluación de los impactos ambientales y la puesta en marcha de los programas de cooperación internacional para la protección del medio marino afectado por las extracciones de nódulos polimetálicos. Además, en el próximo periodo de sesiones se renovarán los puestos de la Comisión Jurídica y Técnica y del Comité Financiero, y sería muy conveniente que, también en esta ocasión, España presentara algún candidato.

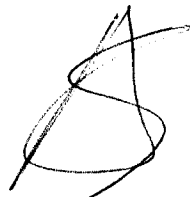
Evidentemente, las instrucciones para la participación en los debates y la toma de decisiones en todas estas cuestiones deberían ser, cada vez más, fruto de comisiones de trabajo preparatorias interministeriales. En ellas sería adecuado, en lo posible, la presencia de los sectores nacionales con intereses actuales o futuros en la materia.

Como ya se consideraba en el informe precedente, la Delegación Española tendría que contar permanentemente con la presencia de un diplomático que se especializara en este foro.

Madrid 31 de agosto de 2000



Carlos Palomo Pedraza
Instituto Español de Oceanografía



Alejandro Sánchez Rodríguez
Instituto Tecnológico Geominero de España

ANEXOS

- Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area (ISBA/6/A/18. Unofficial text, English only)
- Proyecto de presupuesto de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos para el ejercicio económico 2001-2002 (ISBA/6/A/13 - ISBA/6/C/6)
- Summary of total budget for the biennium 2001-2002
- Proyecto de decisión de la Asamblea de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos relativa a las elecciones para llenar las vacantes en el Consejo con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el párrafo 3 del artículo 161 de la Convención (ISBA/6/A/L.3)
- Composition of the Council of the International Seabed Authority (unofficial chart, 2001-2004)

19 July 2000

Unofficial text: English Only

REGULATIONS ON PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION
FOR POLYMETALLIC NODULES IN THE AREA

As approved by the Assembly
at its 76th Meeting, on 13 July 2000

Preamble

In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"), the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, as well as its resources, are the common heritage of mankind, the exploration and exploitation of which shall be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, on whose behalf the International Seabed Authority acts. The objective of this first set of Regulations is to provide for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules.

PART I - INTRODUCTION

Regulation 1

Use of terms and scope

1. Terms used in the Convention shall have the same meaning in these Regulations.
2. In accordance with 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 provisions of the Agreement and Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 shall be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument. These Regulations and references in these Regulations to the Convention are to be interpreted and applied accordingly.
3. For the purposes of these Regulations:
 - (a) "exploitation" means the recovery for commercial purposes of polymetallic nodules in the Area and the extraction of minerals therefrom, including the construction and operation of mining, processing and transportation systems, for the production and marketing of metals;
 - (b) "exploration" means searching for deposits of polymetallic nodules in the Area with exclusive rights, the analysis of such deposits, the testing of collecting systems and equipment, processing facilities and transportation systems, and the carrying out of studies of the environmental, technical, economic, commercial and other appropriate factors that must be taken into account in exploitation;
 - (c) "marine environment" includes the physical, chemical, geological and biological components, conditions and factors which interact and determine the productivity, state, condition and quality of the marine ecosystem, the waters of the seas and oceans and the airspace above those waters, as well as the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof;

Document ISBA/6/A/18 will contain the official text in all languages of the Authority.

(d) "polymetallic nodules" means one of the resources of the Area consisting of any deposit or accretion of nodules, on or just below the surface of the deep seabed, which contain manganese, nickel, cobalt and copper;

(e) "prospecting" means the search for deposits of polymetallic nodules in the Area, including estimation of the composition, sizes and distributions of polymetallic nodule deposits and their economic values, without any exclusive rights;

(f) "serious harm to the marine environment" means any effect from activities in the Area on the marine environment which represents a significant adverse change in the marine environment determined according to the rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Authority on the basis of internationally recognized standards and practices.

4. These Regulations shall not in any way affect the freedom of scientific research, pursuant to article 87 of the Convention, or the right to conduct marine scientific research in the Area pursuant to articles 143 and 256 of the Convention. Nothing in these Regulations shall be construed in such a way as to restrict the exercise by States of the freedom of the high seas as reflected in article 87 of the Convention.

5. These Regulations may be supplemented by further rules, regulations and procedures, in particular on the protection and preservation of the marine environment. These Regulations shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention and the Agreement and other rules of international law not incompatible with the Convention.

PART II - PROSPECTING

Regulation 2

Prospecting

1. Prospecting shall be conducted in accordance with the Convention and these Regulations and may commence only after the prospector has been informed by the Secretary-General that its notification has been recorded pursuant to regulation 4, paragraph 2.

2. Prospecting shall not be undertaken if substantial evidence indicates the risk of serious harm to the marine environment.

3. Prospecting shall not be undertaken in an area covered by an approved plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules or in a reserved area; nor may there be prospecting in an area which the Council has disapproved for exploitation because of the risk of serious harm to the marine environment.

4. Prospecting shall not confer on the prospector any rights with respect to resources. A prospector may, however, recover a reasonable quantity of minerals, being the quantity necessary for testing, and not for commercial use.

5. There shall be no time limit on prospecting except that prospecting in a particular area shall cease upon written notification to the prospector by the Secretary-General that a plan of work for exploration has been approved with regard to that area.

6. Prospecting may be conducted simultaneously by more than one prospector in the same area or areas.

Regulation 3

Notification of prospecting

1. A proposed prospector shall notify the Authority of its intention to engage in prospecting.
2. Each notification of prospecting shall be in the form prescribed in Annex 1 to these Regulations, addressed to the Secretary-General, and shall conform to the requirements of these Regulations.
3. Each notification shall be submitted:
 - (a) in the case of a State, by the authority designated for that purpose by it;
 - (b) in the case of an entity, by its designated representative; and
 - (c) in the case of the Enterprise, by its competent authority.
4. Each notification shall be in one of the languages of the Authority and shall contain:
 - (a) the name, nationality and address of the proposed prospector and its designated representative;
 - (b) the coordinates of the broad area or areas within which prospecting is to be conducted, in accordance with the most recent generally accepted international standard used by the Authority;
 - (c) a general description of the prospecting programme, including the proposed date of commencement and its approximate duration;
 - (d) a satisfactory written undertaking that the proposed prospector will:
 - (i) comply with the Convention and the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority concerning:
 - a. cooperation in the training programmes in connection with marine scientific research and transfer of technology referred to in articles 143 and 144 of the Convention; and
 - b. protection and preservation of the marine environment; and
 - (ii) accept verification by the Authority of compliance therewith.

Regulation 4

Consideration of notifications

1. The Secretary-General shall acknowledge in writing receipt of each notification submitted under regulation 3, specifying the date of receipt.
2. The Secretary-General shall review and act on the notification within 45 days of its receipt. If the notification conforms with the requirements of the Convention and these Regulations, the Secretary-General shall record the particulars of the notification in a register maintained for that purpose and shall inform the prospector in writing that the notification has been so recorded.
3. The Secretary-General shall, within 45 days of receipt of the notification, inform the proposed prospector in writing if the notification includes any part of an area included in an approved plan of work for exploration or exploitation of any category of resources, or any part of a reserved area, or any part of an area

which has been disapproved by the Council for exploitation because of the risk of serious harm to the marine environment, or if the written undertaking is not satisfactory, and shall provide the proposed prospector with a written statement of reasons. In such cases, the proposed prospector may, within 90 days, submit an amended notification. The Secretary-General shall, within 45 days, review and act upon such amended notification.

4. A prospector shall inform the Secretary-General in writing of any change in the information contained in the notification.

5. The Secretary-General shall not release any particulars contained in the notification except with the written consent of the prospector. The Secretary-General shall, however, from time to time inform all members of the Authority of the identity of prospectors and the general areas in which prospecting is being conducted.

Regulation 5

Annual report

1. A prospector shall, within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, submit a report to the Authority on the status of prospecting. Such reports shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Legal and Technical Commission. Each such report shall contain:

- (a) a general description of the status of prospecting and of the results obtained; and
- (b) information on compliance with the undertakings referred to in regulation 3, paragraph (4)(d).

2. If the prospector intends to claim expenditures for prospecting as part of the development costs incurred prior to the commencement of commercial production, the prospector shall submit an annual statement, in conformity with internationally accepted accounting principles and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants, of the actual and direct expenditures incurred by the prospector in carrying out prospecting.

Regulation 6

Confidentiality of data and information from prospecting contained in the annual report

1. The Secretary-General shall ensure the confidentiality of all data and information contained in the reports submitted under regulation 5 in accordance with the provisions of regulations 35 and 36.

2. The Secretary-General may, at any time, with the consent of the prospector concerned, release data and information relating to prospecting in an area in respect of which a notification has been submitted. If the Secretary-General determines that the prospector no longer exists or cannot be located, the Secretary-General may release such data and information.

Regulation 7

Notification of incidents causing serious harm to the marine environment

A prospector shall immediately notify the Secretary-General in writing, using the most effective means, of any incident arising from prospecting which causes serious harm to the marine environment. Upon receipt of such notification the Secretary-General shall act in a manner consistent with regulation 32.

Regulation 8

Objects of an archaeological or historical nature

A prospector shall immediately notify the Secretary-General in writing of any finding in the Area of an object of an archaeological or historical nature and its location. The Secretary-General shall transmit such information to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

PART III - APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF PLANS OF WORK FOR EXPLORATION IN THE FORM OF CONTRACTS

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Regulation 9

General

Subject to the provisions of the Convention, the following may apply to the Authority for approval of plans of work for exploration:

- (a) the Enterprise, on its own behalf or in a joint arrangement;
- (b) States Parties, state enterprises or natural or juridical persons which possess the nationality of States Parties or are effectively controlled by them or their nationals, when sponsored by such States, or any group of the foregoing which meets the requirements of these Regulations.¹

SECTION 2. CONTENT OF APPLICATIONS

Regulation 10

Form of applications

1. Each application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in the form prescribed in Annex 2 to these Regulations, shall be addressed to the Secretary-General, and shall conform to the requirements of these Regulations.²

¹ A request by a registered pioneer investor for approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement shall be submitted within 36 months of the entry into force of the Convention.

2. Each application shall be submitted:
 - (a) in the case of a State Party, by the authority designated for that purpose by it;
 - (b) in the case of an entity, by its designated representative or the authority designated for that purpose by the sponsoring State or States; and
 - (c) in the case of the Enterprise, by its competent authority.
3. Each application by a state enterprise or one of the entities referred to in subparagraph (b) of regulation 9 shall also contain:
 - (a) sufficient information to determine the nationality of the applicant or the identity of the State or States by which, or by whose nationals, the applicant is effectively controlled; and
 - (b) the principal place of business or domicile and, if applicable, place of registration of the applicant.
4. Each application submitted by a partnership or consortium of entities shall contain the required information in respect of each member of the partnership or consortium.

Regulation 11

Certificate of sponsorship

1. Each application by a state enterprise or one of the entities referred to in subparagraph (b) of regulation 9 shall be accompanied by a certificate of sponsorship issued by the State of which it is a national or by which or by whose nationals it is effectively controlled.³ If the applicant has more than one nationality, as in the case of a partnership or consortium of entities from more than one State, each State involved shall issue a certificate of sponsorship.
2. Where the applicant has the nationality of one State but is effectively controlled by another State or its nationals, each State involved shall issue a certificate of sponsorship.
3. Each certificate of sponsorship shall be duly signed on behalf of the State by which it is submitted and shall contain:

² A request by a registered pioneer investor for approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement shall consist of documents, reports and other data submitted to the Preparatory Commission both before and after registration and shall be accompanied by a certificate of compliance, consisting of a factual report describing the status of fulfilment of obligations under the registered pioneer investor regime, issued by the Preparatory Commission in accordance with resolution II, paragraph 11(a). The registered pioneer investor shall, where such information has not already been provided, update the information, using, as far as possible, the provisions of regulation 18 as a guide, and submit its programme of activities for the immediate future, including a general assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activities.

³ In the case of a request by a registered pioneer investor for approval of a plan of work for exploration, the certifying State or States at the time of registration or their successors shall be deemed to be the sponsoring State or States provided such State or States are States Parties to the Convention or are provisional members of the Authority at the time of the request.

- (a) the name of the applicant;
 - (b) the name of the sponsoring State;
 - (c) a statement that the applicant is:
 - (i) a national of the sponsoring State; or
 - (ii) subject to the effective control of the sponsoring State or its nationals;
 - (d) a statement by the sponsoring State that it sponsors the applicant;
 - (e) the date of deposit by the sponsoring State of its instrument of ratification of, or accession or succession to, the Convention;
 - (f) a declaration that the sponsoring State assumes responsibility in accordance with article 139, article 153, paragraph 4, and Annex III, article 4, paragraph 4, of the Convention.
4. States or entities in a joint arrangement with the Enterprise shall also comply with this regulation.

Regulation 12

Financial and technical capabilities

1. Each application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall contain specific and sufficient information to enable the Council to determine whether the applicant is financially and technically capable of carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration and of fulfilling its financial obligations to the Authority.⁴
2. An application for approval of a plan of work for exploration submitted on behalf of a State or entity, or any component of such entity, referred to in resolution II, paragraph 1(a)(ii) or (iii), other than a registered pioneer investor, which has already undertaken substantial activities in the Area prior to the entry into force of the Convention, or its successor in interest, shall be considered to have met the financial and technical qualifications necessary for approval of a plan of work for exploration if the sponsoring State or States certify that the applicant has expended an amount equivalent to at least US\$ 30 million in research and exploration activities and has expended no less than 10 per cent of that amount in the location, survey and evaluation of the area referred to in the plan of work for exploration.
3. An application for approval of a plan of work for exploration by the Enterprise shall include a statement by its competent authority certifying that the Enterprise has the necessary financial resources to meet the estimated costs of the proposed plan of work for exploration.
4. An application for approval of a plan of work for exploration by a State or a state enterprise, other than a registered pioneer investor or an entity referred to in resolution II, paragraph 1(a)(ii) or (iii), shall include a statement by the State or the sponsoring State certifying that the applicant has the necessary financial resources to meet the estimated costs of the proposed plan of work for exploration.
5. An application for approval of a plan of work for exploration by an entity, other than a registered pioneer investor or an entity referred to in resolution II, paragraph 1(a)(ii) or (iii), shall include copies of its

⁴ A registered pioneer investor requesting approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement shall be considered to have satisfied the financial and technical qualifications necessary for approval of a plan of work.

audited financial statements, including balance sheets and profit-and-loss statements, for the most recent three years, in conformity with internationally accepted accounting principles and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants; and

(a) if the applicant is a newly organised entity and a certified balance sheet is not available, a pro forma balance sheet certified by an appropriate official of the applicant;

(b) if the applicant is a subsidiary of another entity, copies of such financial statements of that entity and a statement from that entity, in conformity with internationally accepted accounting principles and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants, that the applicant will have the financial resources to carry out the plan of work for exploration;

(c) if the applicant is controlled by a State or a state enterprise, a statement from the State or state enterprise certifying that the applicant will have the financial resources to carry out the plan of work for exploration.

6. Where an applicant referred to in paragraph 5 intends to finance the proposed plan of work for exploration by borrowings, its application shall include the amount of such borrowings, the repayment period and the interest rate.

7. Except as provided for in paragraph 2, all applications shall include:

(a) a general description of the applicant's previous experience, knowledge, skills, technical qualifications and expertise relevant to the proposed plan of work for exploration;

(b) a general description of the equipment and methods expected to be used in carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration and other relevant non-proprietary information about the characteristics of such technology; and

(c) a general description of the applicant's financial and technical capability to respond to any incident or activity which causes serious harm to the marine environment.

8. Where the applicant is a partnership or consortium of entities in a joint arrangement, each member of the partnership or consortium shall provide the information required by this regulation.

Regulation 13

Previous contracts with the Authority

Where the applicant or, in the case of an application by a partnership or consortium of entities in a joint arrangement, any member of the partnership or consortium, has previously been awarded any contract with the Authority, the application shall include:

(a) the date of the previous contract or contracts;

(b) the dates, reference numbers and titles of each report submitted to the Authority in connection with the contract or contracts; and

(c) the date of termination of the contract or contracts, if applicable.

Regulation 14

Undertakings

Each applicant, including the Enterprise, shall, as part of its application for approval of a plan of work for exploration, provide a written undertaking to the Authority that it will:

(a) accept as enforceable and comply with the applicable obligations created by the provisions of the Convention and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority and the terms of its contracts with the Authority;

(b) accept control by the Authority of activities in the Area, as authorized by the Convention; and

(c) provide the Authority with a written assurance that its obligations under the contract will be fulfilled in good faith.⁵

Regulation 15

Total area covered by the application

Each application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall define the boundaries of the area under application by a list of coordinates in accordance with the most recent generally accepted international standard used by the Authority. Applications other than those under regulation 17 shall cover a total area, which need not be a single continuous area, sufficiently large and of sufficient estimated commercial value to allow two mining operations. The applicant shall indicate the coordinates dividing the area into two parts of equal estimated commercial value. The area to be allocated to the applicant shall be subject to the provisions of regulation 25.

Regulation 16

Data and information to be submitted before the designation of a reserved area

1. Each application shall contain sufficient data and information, as prescribed in Section II of Annex 2 to these Regulations, with respect to the area under application to enable the Council, on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, to designate a reserved area based on the estimated commercial value of each part. Such data and information shall consist of data available to the applicant with respect to both parts of the area under application, including the data used to determine their commercial value.

2. The Council, on the basis of the data and information submitted by the applicant pursuant to Section II of Annex 2 to these Regulations, if found satisfactory, and taking into account the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, shall designate the part of the area under application which is to be a reserved area. The area so designated shall become a reserved area as soon as the plan of work for exploration for the non-reserved area is approved and the contract is signed. If the Council determines that additional information, consistent with these Regulations and Annex 2, is needed to designate the reserved area, it shall refer the matter back to the Commission for further consideration, specifying the additional information required.

⁵ Such undertaking shall also be provided by a registered pioneer investor requesting approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement.

3. Once the plan of work for exploration is approved and a contract has been issued, the data and information transferred to the Authority by the applicant in respect of the reserved area may be disclosed by the Authority in accordance with article 14, paragraph 3, of Annex III to the Convention.

Regulation 17

Applications for approval of plans of work with respect to a reserved area

1. Any State which is a developing State or any natural or juridical person sponsored by it and effectively controlled by it or by any other developing State, or any group of the foregoing, may notify the Authority that it wishes to submit a plan of work for exploration with respect to a reserved area. The Secretary-General shall forward such notification to the Enterprise, which shall inform the Secretary-General in writing within six months whether or not it intends to carry out activities in that area. If the Enterprise intends to carry out activities in that area, it shall, pursuant to paragraph 4, also inform in writing the contractor whose application for approval of a plan of work for exploration originally included that area.

2. An application for approval of a plan of work for exploration in respect of a reserved area may be submitted at any time after such an area becomes available following a decision by the Enterprise that it does not intend to carry out activities in that area or where the Enterprise has not, within six months of the notification by the Secretary-General, either taken a decision on whether it intends to carry out activities in that area or notified the Secretary-General in writing that it is engaged in discussions regarding a potential joint venture. In the latter instance, the Enterprise shall have one year from the date of such notification in which to decide whether to conduct activities in that area.

3. If the Enterprise or a developing State or one of the entities referred to in paragraph 1 does not submit an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for activities in a reserved area within 15 years of the commencement by the Enterprise of its functions independent of the Secretariat of the Authority or within 15 years of the date on which that area is reserved for the Authority, whichever is the later, the contractor whose application for approval of a plan of work for exploration originally included that area shall be entitled to apply for a plan of work for exploration for that area provided it offers in good faith to include the Enterprise as a joint-venture partner.

4. A contractor has the right of first refusal to enter into a joint venture arrangement with the Enterprise for exploration of the area which was included in its application for approval of a plan of work for exploration and which was designated by the Council as a reserved area.

Regulation 18

Data and information to be submitted for approval of the plan of work for exploration⁶

After the Council has designated the reserved area, the applicant, if it has not already done so, shall submit, with a view to receiving approval of the plan of work for exploration in the form of a contract, the following information:

(a) a general description and a schedule of the proposed exploration programme, including the programme of activities for the immediate five-year period, such as studies to be undertaken in respect of the environmental, technical, economic and other appropriate factors that must be taken into account in exploration;

⁶In the case of a request by a registered pioneer investor for approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, this Regulation shall be implemented in the light of regulation 10.

(b) a description of the programme for oceanographic and environmental baseline studies in accordance with these Regulations and any environmental rules, regulations and procedures established by the Authority that would enable an assessment of the potential environmental impact of the proposed exploration activities, taking into account any recommendations issued by the Legal and Technical Commission;

(c) a preliminary assessment of the possible impact of the proposed exploration activities on the marine environment;

(d) a description of proposed measures for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards, as well as possible impacts, to the marine environment;

(e) data necessary for the Council to make the determination it is required to make in accordance with regulation 12, paragraph 1; and

(f) a schedule of anticipated yearly expenditures in respect of the programme of activities for the immediate five-year period.

SECTION 3. FEES

Regulation 19

Fee for applications

1. The fee for processing applications for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be US\$ 250,000 or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The fee shall be paid to the Authority by the applicant at the time of submitting an application.⁷
2. The amount of the fee shall be reviewed from time to time by the Council in order to ensure that it covers the administrative costs incurred by the Authority in processing the application.
3. If the administrative costs incurred by the Authority in processing the application are less than the fixed amount, the Authority shall refund the difference to the applicant.

SECTION 4. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Regulation 20

Receipt, acknowledgement and safe custody of applications

1. The Secretary-General shall:
 - (a) acknowledge in writing receipt of every application for approval of a plan of work for exploration submitted under this Part, specifying the date of receipt;

⁷ In the case of a registered pioneer investor requesting approval for a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the fee of US\$ 250,000 paid pursuant to resolution II, paragraph 7(a), shall be deemed to be the fee referred to under paragraph 1 relating to the exploration phase.

(b) place the application together with the attachments and annexes thereto in safe custody and ensure the confidentiality of all confidential data and information contained in the application; and

(c) notify the members of the Authority of the receipt of such application and circulate to them information of a general nature which is not confidential regarding the application.

Regulation 21

Consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission⁸

1. Upon receipt of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration, the Secretary-General shall notify the members of the Legal and Technical Commission and place consideration of the application as an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Commission:-

2. The Commission shall examine applications in the order in which they are received.

3. The Commission shall determine if the applicant:

(a) has complied with the provisions of these Regulations;

(b) has given the undertakings and assurances specified in regulation 14;

(c) possesses the financial and technical capability to carry out the proposed plan of work for exploration; and

(d) has satisfactorily discharged its obligations in relation to any previous contract with the Authority.

4. The Commission shall, in accordance with the requirements set forth in these Regulations and its procedures, determine whether the proposed plan of work for exploration will:

(a) provide for effective protection of human health and safety;

⁸ In the case of a request by a registered pioneer investor for approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the Secretary-General shall ascertain whether:

(a) the documents, reports and other data submitted to the Preparatory Commission both before and after registration are available;

(b) the certificate of compliance, consisting of a factual report describing the status of fulfilment of obligations under the registered pioneer investor regime, issued by the Preparatory Commission in accordance with resolution II, paragraph 11(a), has been produced;

(c) the registered pioneer investor has updated the information provided in the documents, reports and other data submitted to the Preparatory Commission both before and after registration and has submitted its programme of activities for the immediate future, including a general assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activities; and

(d) the registered pioneer investor has given the undertakings and assurances specified in regulation 14.

If the Secretary-General informs the Commission that the provisions of (a), (b), (c) and (d) have been satisfied by a registered pioneer investor, the Commission shall recommend approval of the plan of work.

- (b) provide for effective protection and preservation of the marine environment;
 - (c) ensure that installations are not established where interference may be caused to the use of recognized sea lanes essential to international navigation or in areas of intense fishing activity.
5. If the Commission makes the determinations specified in paragraph 3 and determines that the proposed plan of work for exploration meets the requirements of paragraph 4, the Commission shall recommend approval of the plan of work for exploration to the Council.
6. The Commission shall not recommend approval of the plan of work for exploration if part or all of the area covered by the proposed plan of work for exploration is included in:
- (a) a plan of work for exploration approved by the Council for polymetallic nodules; or
 - (b) a plan of work approved by the Council for exploration for or exploitation of other resources if such proposed plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules might cause undue interference with activities under such an approved plan of work for such other resources; or
 - (c) an area disapproved for exploitation by the Council in cases where substantial evidence indicates the risk of serious harm to the marine environment; or
 - (d) if the proposed plan of work for exploration has been submitted or sponsored by a State that already holds:
 - (i) plans of work for exploration and exploitation or exploitation only in non-reserved areas that, together with either part of the area covered by the application, exceed in size 30 per cent of a circular area of 400,000 square kilometres surrounding the centre of either part of the area covered by the proposed plan of work;
 - (ii) plans of work for exploration and exploitation or exploitation only in non-reserved areas which, taken together, constitute 2 per cent of that part of the Area which is not reserved or disapproved for exploitation pursuant to article 162, paragraph (2)(x), of the Convention.
7. Except in the case of applications by the Enterprise, on its own behalf or in a joint venture, and applications under regulation 17, the Commission shall not recommend approval of the plan of work for exploration if part or all of the area covered by the proposed plan of work for exploration is included in a reserved area or an area designated by the Council to be a reserved area.
8. If the Commission finds that an application does not comply with these Regulations, it shall notify the applicant in writing, through the Secretary-General, indicating the reasons. The applicant may, within 45 days of such notification, amend its application. If the Commission after further consideration is of the view that it should not recommend approval of the plan of work for exploration, it shall so inform the applicant and provide the applicant with a further opportunity to make representations within 30 days of such information. The Commission shall consider any such representations made by the applicant in preparing its report and recommendation to the Council.
9. In considering a proposed plan of work for exploration, the Commission shall have regard to the principles, policies and objectives relating to activities in the Area as provided for in Part XI and Annex III of the Convention and the Agreement.
10. The Commission shall consider applications expeditiously and shall submit its report and recommendations to the Council on the designation of the areas and on the plan of work for exploration at the first possible opportunity, taking into account the schedule of meetings of the Authority.

11. In discharging its duties, the Commission shall apply these Regulations and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority in a uniform and non-discriminatory manner.

Regulation 22

Consideration and approval of plans of work for exploration by the Council⁹

The Council shall consider the reports and recommendations of the Commission relating to approval of plans of work for exploration in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of section 3 of the annex to the Agreement.

PART IV - CONTRACTS FOR EXPLORATION

Regulation 23

The contract

1. After a plan of work for exploration has been approved by the Council, it shall be prepared in the form of a contract between the Authority and the applicant as prescribed in Annex 3 to these Regulations. Each contract shall incorporate the standard clauses set out in Annex 4 in effect at the date of entry into force of the contract.
2. The contract shall be signed by the Secretary-General on behalf of the Authority and by the applicant. The Secretary-General shall notify all members of the Authority in writing of the conclusion of each contract.
3. In accordance with the principle of non-discrimination, a contract with a State or entity or any component of such entity referred to in paragraph 6(a)(i) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement shall include arrangements that shall be similar to and no less favourable than those agreed with any registered pioneer investor. If any of the States or entities or any components of such entities referred to in paragraph 6(a)(i) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement are granted more favourable arrangements, the Council shall make similar and no less favourable arrangements with regard to the rights and obligations assumed by the registered pioneer investors provided that such arrangements do not affect or prejudice the interests of the Authority.

Regulation 24

Rights of the contractor

1. The contractor shall have the exclusive right to explore an area covered by a plan of work for exploration in respect of polymetallic nodules. The Authority shall ensure that no other entity operates in the same area for resources other than polymetallic nodules in a manner that might interfere with the operations of the contractor.
2. A contractor who has an approved plan of work for exploration only shall have a preference and a priority among applicants submitting plans of work for exploitation of the same area and resources. Such

⁹ In the case of a request by a registered pioneer investor for approval of a plan of work for exploration under paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the Agreement, once the Commission recommends approval of the plan of work and submits its recommendation to the Council, the plan of work shall be considered approved by the Council in accordance with paragraph 6(a)(ii) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement.

preference or priority may be withdrawn by the Council if the contractor has failed to comply with the requirements of its approved plan of work for exploration within the time period specified in a written notice or notices from the Council to the contractor indicating which requirements have not been complied with by the contractor. The time period specified in any such notice shall not be unreasonable. The contractor shall be accorded a reasonable opportunity to be heard before the withdrawal of such preference or priority becomes final. The Council shall provide the reasons for its proposed withdrawal of preference or priority and shall consider any contractor's response. The decision of the Council shall take account of that response and shall be based on substantial evidence.

3. A withdrawal of preference or priority shall not become effective until the contractor has been accorded a reasonable opportunity to exhaust the judicial remedies available to it pursuant to Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

Regulation 25

Size of area and relinquishment

1. The total area allocated to the contractor under the contract shall not exceed 150,000 square kilometres. The contractor shall relinquish portions of the area allocated to it to revert to the Area, in accordance with the following schedule:

- (a) 20 per cent of the area allocated by the end of the third year from the date of the contract;
- (b) an additional 10 per cent of the area allocated by the end of the fifth year from the date of the contract; and
- (c) an additional 20 per cent of the area allocated or such larger amount as would exceed the exploitation area decided upon by the Authority, after eight years from the date of the contract,

provided that a contractor shall not be required to relinquish any portion of such area when the total area allocated to it does not exceed 75,000 square kilometres.

2. In the case of a registered pioneer investor, the contract shall take into account the schedule of relinquishment, where applicable, in accordance with the terms of its registration as a registered pioneer investor.

3. The Council may, at the request of the contractor, and on the recommendation of the Commission, in exceptional circumstances, defer the schedule of relinquishment. Such exceptional circumstances shall be determined by the Council and shall include, *inter alia*, consideration of prevailing economic circumstances or other unforeseen exceptional circumstances arising in connection with the operational activities of the Contractor.

Regulation 26

Duration of contracts

1. A plan of work for exploration shall be approved for a period of 15 years. Upon expiration of a plan of work for exploration, the contractor shall apply for a plan of work for exploitation unless the contractor has already done so, has obtained an extension for the plan of work for exploration or decides to renounce its rights in the area covered by the plan of work for exploration.

2. Not later than six months before the expiration of a plan of work for exploration, a contractor may apply for extensions for the plan of work for exploration for periods of not more than five years each. Such extensions shall be approved by the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, if the contractor

has made efforts in good faith to comply with the requirements of the plan of work but for reasons beyond the contractor's control has been unable to complete the necessary preparatory work for proceeding to the exploitation stage or if the prevailing economic circumstances do not justify proceeding to the exploitation stage.

Regulation 27

Training

1. Pursuant to article 15 of Annex III to the Convention, each contract shall include as a schedule a practical programme for the training of personnel of the Authority and developing States and drawn up by the contractor in cooperation with the Authority and the sponsoring State or States. Training programmes shall focus on training in the conduct of exploration, and shall provide for full participation by such personnel in all activities covered by the contract. Such training programmes may be revised and developed from time to time as necessary by mutual agreement.
2. In the case of a registered pioneer investor, the contract shall take into account the training provided in accordance with the terms of its registration as a registered pioneer investor.

Regulation 28

Periodic review of the implementation of the plan of work for exploration

1. The contractor and the Secretary-General shall jointly undertake a periodic review of the implementation of the plan of work for exploration at intervals of five years. The Secretary-General may request the contractor to submit such additional data and information as may be necessary for the purposes of the review.
2. In the light of the review, the contractor shall indicate its programme of activities for the following five-year period, making such adjustments to its previous programme of activities as are necessary.
3. The Secretary-General shall report on the review to the Commission and to the Council. The Secretary-General shall indicate in the report whether any observations transmitted to him by States Parties to the Convention concerning the manner in which the contractor has discharged its obligations under these Regulations relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment were taken into account in the review.

Regulation 29

Termination of sponsorship

1. Each contractor shall have the required sponsorship throughout the period of the contract.
2. If a State terminates its sponsorship it shall promptly notify the Secretary-General in writing. The sponsoring State should also inform the Secretary-General of the reasons for terminating its sponsorship. Termination of sponsorship shall take effect six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General, unless the notification specifies a later date.
3. In the event of termination of sponsorship the contractor shall, within the period referred to in paragraph 2, obtain another sponsor. Such sponsor shall submit a certificate of sponsorship in accordance with regulation 11. Failure to obtain a sponsor within the required period shall result in the termination of the contract.

4. A sponsoring State shall not be discharged by reason of the termination of its sponsorship from any obligations accrued while it was a sponsoring State, nor shall such termination affect any legal rights and obligations created during such sponsorship.

5. The Secretary-General shall notify the members of the Authority of the termination or change of sponsorship.

Regulation 30

Responsibility and liability

Responsibility and liability of the contractor and of the Authority shall be in accordance with the Convention. The contractor shall continue to have responsibility for any damage arising out of wrongful acts in the conduct of its operations, in particular damage to the marine environment, after the completion of the exploration phase.

PART V - PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Regulation 31

Protection and preservation of the marine environment

1. The Authority shall, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, establish and keep under periodic review environmental rules, regulations and procedures to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area.

2. In order to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area, the Authority and sponsoring States shall apply a precautionary approach, as reflected in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration,¹⁰ to such activities. The Legal and Technical Commission shall make recommendations to the Council on the implementation of this paragraph.

3. Pursuant to article 145 of the Convention and paragraph 2 of this regulation, each contractor shall take necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment arising from its activities in the Area as far as reasonably possible using the best technology available to it.

4. Each contract shall require the contractor to gather environmental baseline data and to establish environmental baselines, taking into account any recommendations issued by the Legal and Technical Commission pursuant to regulation 38, against which to assess the likely effects of its programme of activities under the plan of work for exploration on the marine environment and a programme to monitor and report on such effects. The recommendations issued by the Commission may, inter alia, list those exploration activities which may be considered to have no potential for causing harmful effects on the marine environment. The contractor shall cooperate with the Authority and the sponsoring State or States in the establishment and implementation of such monitoring programme.

5. The contractor shall report annually in writing to the Secretary-General on the implementation and results of the monitoring programme referred to in paragraph 4 and shall submit data and information, taking into account any recommendations issued by the Commission pursuant to regulation 38. The Secretary-

¹⁰ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1991 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, Annex I.

General shall transmit such reports to the Commission for its consideration pursuant to article 165 of the Convention.

6. Contractors, sponsoring States and other interested States or entities shall cooperate with the Authority in the establishment and implementation of programmes for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of deep seabed mining on the marine environment.

7. If the Contractor applies for exploitation rights, it shall propose areas to be set aside and used exclusively as impact reference zones and preservation reference zones. "Impact reference zones" means areas to be used for assessing the effect of each contractor's activities in the Area on the marine environment and which are representative of the environmental characteristics of the Area. "Preservation reference zones" means areas in which no mining shall occur to ensure representative and stable biota of the seabed in order to assess any changes in the flora and fauna of the marine environment.

Regulation 32

Emergency orders

1. When the Secretary-General has been notified by a contractor or otherwise becomes aware of an incident resulting from or caused by a contractor's activities in the Area that has caused, or is likely to cause, serious harm to the marine environment, the Secretary-General shall issue a general notification of the incident, shall notify in writing the contractor and the sponsoring State or States, and shall report immediately to the Legal and Technical Commission and to the Council. A copy of the report shall be circulated to all members of the Authority, to competent international organizations and to concerned subregional, regional and global organizations and bodies. The Secretary-General shall monitor developments with respect to all such incidents and shall report on them as appropriate to the Commission and to the Council.
2. Pending any action by the Council, the Secretary-General shall take such immediate measures of a temporary nature as are practical and reasonable in the circumstances to prevent, contain and minimize serious harm to the marine environment. Such temporary measures shall remain in effect for no longer than 90 days, or until the Council decides what measures, if any, to take pursuant to paragraph 5 of this regulation, whichever is the earlier.
3. After having received the report of the Secretary-General, the Commission shall determine, based on the evidence provided to it and taking into account the measures already taken by the contractor, which measures are necessary to respond effectively to the incident in order to prevent, contain and minimize the serious harm, and shall make its recommendations to the Council.
4. The Council shall consider the recommendations of the Commission.
5. The Council, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission and any information provided by the Contractor, may issue emergency orders, which may include orders for the suspension or adjustment of operations, as may be reasonably necessary to prevent, contain and minimize serious harm to the marine environment arising out of activities in the Area.
6. If a contractor does not promptly comply with an emergency order to prevent serious harm to the marine environment arising out of its activities in the Area, the Council shall take by itself or through arrangements with others on its behalf, such practical measures as are necessary to prevent, contain and minimize any such serious harm to the marine environment.
7. In order to enable the Council, when necessary, to take immediately the practical measures to prevent, contain and minimize serious harm to the marine environment referred to in paragraph 6, the contractor, prior to the commencement of testing of collecting systems and processing operations, will

provide the Council with a guarantee of its financial and technical capability to comply promptly with emergency orders or to assure that the Council can take such emergency measures. If the contractor does not provide the Council with such a guarantee, the sponsoring State or States shall, in response to a request by the Secretary-General and pursuant to articles 139 and 235 of the Convention, take necessary measures to ensure that the contractor provides such a guarantee or shall take measures to ensure that assistance is provided to the Authority in the discharge of its responsibilities under paragraph 6.¹¹

Regulation 33

Rights of coastal States

1. Nothing in these Regulations shall affect the rights of coastal States in accordance with article 142 and other relevant provisions of the Convention.
2. Any coastal State which has grounds for believing that any activity in the Area by a contractor is likely to cause serious harm to the marine environment under its jurisdiction or sovereignty may notify the Secretary-General in writing of the grounds upon which such belief is based. The Secretary-General shall provide the Contractor and its sponsoring State or States with a reasonable opportunity to examine the evidence, if any, provided by the coastal State as the basis for its belief. The contractor and its sponsoring State or States may submit their observations thereon to the Secretary-General within a reasonable time.
3. If there are clear grounds for believing that serious harm to the marine environment is likely to occur, the Secretary-General shall act in accordance with regulation 32 and, if necessary, shall take immediate measures of a temporary nature as provided for in paragraph 2 of regulation 32.

Regulation 34

Objects of an archaeological or historical nature

The contractor shall immediately notify the Secretary-General in writing of any finding in the exploration area of an object of an archaeological or historical nature and its location. The Secretary-General shall transmit such information to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Following the finding of any such object of an archaeological or historical nature in the exploration area, the contractor shall take all reasonable measures to avoid disturbing such object.

PART VI - CONFIDENTIALITY

Regulation 35

Proprietary data and information and confidentiality

1. Data and information submitted or transferred to the Authority or to any person participating in any activity or programme of the Authority pursuant to these Regulations or a contract issued under these Regulations, and designated by the contractor, in consultation with the Secretary-General, as being of a confidential nature, shall be considered confidential unless it is data and information which:
 - (a) is generally known or publicly available from other sources;

¹¹ See ISBA/6/C/12 (Decision of the Council relating to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area).

(b) has been previously made available by the owner to others without an obligation concerning its confidentiality; or

(c) is already in the possession of the Authority with no obligation concerning its confidentiality.

2. Confidential data and information may only be used by the Secretary-General and staff of the Secretariat, as authorized by the Secretary-General, and by the members of the Legal and Technical Commission as necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of their powers and functions. The Secretary-General shall authorize access to such data and information only for limited use in connection with the functions and duties of the staff of the Secretariat and the functions and duties of the Legal and Technical Commission.

3. Ten years after the date of submission of confidential data and information to the Authority or the expiration of the contract for exploration, whichever is the later, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary-General and the contractor shall review such data and information to determine whether they should remain confidential. Such data and information shall remain confidential if the contractor establishes that there would be a substantial risk of serious and unfair economic prejudice if the data and information were to be released. No such data and information shall be released until the contractor has been accorded a reasonable opportunity to exhaust the judicial remedies available to it pursuant to Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

4. If, at any time following the expiration of the contract for exploration, the contractor enters into a contract for exploitation in respect of any part of the exploration area, confidential data and information relating to that part of the area shall remain confidential in accordance with the contract for exploitation.

5. The contractor may at any time waive confidentiality of data and information.

Regulation 36

Procedures to ensure confidentiality

1. The Secretary-General shall be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all confidential data and information and shall not, except with the prior written consent of the contractor, release such data and information to any person external to the Authority. To ensure the confidentiality of such data and information, the Secretary-General shall establish procedures, consistent with the provisions of the Convention, governing the handling of confidential information by members of the Secretariat, members of the Legal and Technical Commission and any other person participating in any activity or programme of the Authority. Such procedures shall include:

(a) maintenance of confidential data and information in secure facilities and development of security procedures to prevent unauthorized access to or removal of such data and information;

(b) development and maintenance of a classification, log and inventory system of all written data and information received, including its type and source and routing from the time of receipt until final disposition.

2. A person who is authorized pursuant to these Regulations to have access to confidential data and information shall not disclose such data and information except as permitted under the Convention and these Regulations. The Secretary-General shall require any person who is authorized to have access to confidential data and information to make a written declaration witnessed by the Secretary-General or his or her authorized representative to the effect that the person so authorized:

(a) acknowledges his or her legal obligation under the Convention and these Regulations with respect to the non-disclosure of confidential data and information;

(b) agrees to comply with the applicable regulations and procedures established to ensure the confidentiality of such data and information.

3. The Legal and Technical Commission shall protect the confidentiality of confidential data and information submitted to it pursuant to these Regulations or a contract issued under these Regulations. In accordance with the provisions of article 163, paragraph 8, of the Convention, members of the Commission shall not disclose, even after the termination of their functions, any industrial secret, proprietary data which are transferred to the Authority in accordance with Annex III, article 14, of the Convention, or any other confidential information coming to their knowledge by reason of their duties for the Authority.

4. The Secretary-General and staff of the Authority shall not disclose, even after the termination of their functions with the Authority, any industrial secret, proprietary data which are transferred to the Authority in accordance with Annex III, article 14, of the Convention, or any other confidential information coming to their knowledge by reason of their employment with the Authority.

5. Taking into account the responsibility and liability of the Authority pursuant to Annex III, article 22, of the Convention, the Authority may take such action as may be appropriate against any person who, by reason of his or her duties for the Authority, has access to any confidential data and information and who is in breach of the obligations relating to confidentiality contained in the Convention and these Regulations.

PART VII – GENERAL PROCEDURES

Regulation 37

Notice and general procedures

1. Any application, request, notice, report, consent, approval, waiver, direction or instruction hereunder shall be made by the Secretary-General or by the designated representative of the prospector, applicant or contractor, as the case may be, in writing. Service shall be by hand, or by telex, facsimile or registered airmail to the Secretary-General at the headquarters of the Authority or to the designated representative.

2. Delivery by hand shall be effective when made. Delivery by telex shall be deemed to be effective on the business day following the day when the "answer back" appears on the sender's telex machine. Delivery by facsimile shall be effective when the "transmit confirmation report" confirming the transmission to the recipient's published facsimile number is received by the transmitter. Delivery by registered airmail shall be deemed to be effective 21 days after posting.

3. Notice to the designated representative of the prospector, applicant or contractor shall constitute effective notice to the prospector, applicant or contractor for all purposes under these Regulations, and the designated representative shall be the agent of the prospector, applicant or contractor for the service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

4. Notice to the Secretary-General shall constitute effective notice to the Authority for all purposes under these Regulations, and the Secretary-General shall be the Authority's agent for the service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

Regulation 38

Recommendations for the guidance of contractors

1. The Legal and Technical Commission may from time to time issue recommendations of a technical or administrative nature for the guidance of contractors to assist them in the implementation of the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority.
2. The full text of such recommendations shall be reported to the Council. Should the Council find that a recommendation is inconsistent with the intent and purpose of these Regulations, it may request that the recommendation be modified or withdrawn.

PART VIII – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Regulation 39

Disputes

1. Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of these Regulations shall be settled in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.
2. Any final decision rendered by a court or tribunal having jurisdiction under the Convention relating to the rights and obligations of the Authority and of the Contractor shall be enforceable in the territory of each State Party to the Convention.

PART IX - RESOURCES OTHER THAN POLYMETALLIC NODULES

Regulation 40

Resources other than polymetallic nodules

If a prospector or contractor finds resources in the Area other than polymetallic nodules, the prospecting and exploration for and exploitation of such resources shall be subject to the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority relating to such resources in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement.

Annex 1

NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN PROSPECTING

1. Name of prospector:
2. Street address of prospector:
3. Postal address (if different from above):
4. Telephone number:
5. Facsimile number:
6. Electronic mail address:
7. Nationality of prospector:
8. If prospector is a juridical person, identify prospector's
 - (a) place of registration; and
 - (b) principal place of business/domicile.

and attach a copy of the prospector's certificate of registration.

9. Name of prospector's designated representative:
10. Street of prospector's designated representative (if different from above):
11. Postal address (if different from above):
12. Telephone number:
13. Facsimile number:
14. Electronic mail address:
15. Attach the coordinates of the broad area or areas in which prospecting is to be conducted (in accordance with the World Geodetic System WGS 84).
16. Attach a general description of the prospecting programme, including the date of commencement and the approximate duration of the programme.
17. Attach a written undertaking that the prospector will:
 - (a) comply with the Convention and the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority concerning:
 - (i) cooperation in the training programmes in connection with marine scientific research and transfer of technology referred to in articles 143 and 144 of the Convention; and
 - (ii) protection and preservation of the marine environment; and

(b) accept verification by the Authority of compliance therewith.

18. List hereunder all the attachments and annexes to this notification (all data and information should be submitted in hard copy and in a digital format specified by the Authority):

Date: _____

Signature of prospector's designated
representative

ATTESTATION:

Signature of person attesting

Name of person attesting

Title of person attesting

Annex 2

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A PLAN OF WORK FOR EXPLORATION
TO OBTAIN A CONTRACT

Section I

Information concerning the applicant

1. Name of applicant:
2. Street address of applicant:
3. Postal address (if different from above):
4. Telephone number:
5. Facsimile number:
6. Electronic mail address:
7. Name of applicant's designated representative:
8. Street address of applicant's designated representative (if different from above):
9. Postal address (if different from above):
10. Telephone number:
11. Facsimile number:
12. Electronic mail address:
13. If the applicant is a juridical person, identify applicant's
 - (a) place of registration; and
 - (b) principal place of business/domicile.

and attach a copy of the applicant's certificate of registration.

14. Identify the sponsoring State or States.
15. In respect of each sponsoring State, provide the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification of, or accession or succession to, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the date of its consent to be bound by the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.
16. A certificate of sponsorship issued by the sponsoring State must be attached with this application. If the applicant has more than one nationality, as in the case of a partnership or consortium of entities from more than one State, certificates of sponsorship issued by each of the States involved must be attached.

Section II

Information relating to the area under application

17. Define the boundaries of the area under application by attaching a list of geographical coordinates (in accordance with the World Geodetic System WGS 84).

18. Attach a chart (on a scale and projection specified by the Authority) and a list of the coordinates dividing the total area into two parts of equal estimated commercial value.

19. Include in an attachment sufficient information to enable the Council to designate a reserved area based on the estimated commercial value of each part of the area under application. Such attachment must include the data available to the applicant with respect to both parts of the area under application, including:

(a) data on the location, survey and evaluation of the polymetallic nodules in the areas, including:

(i) a description of the technology related to the recovery and processing of polymetallic nodules that is necessary for making the designation of a reserved area;

(ii) a map of the physical and geological characteristics, such as seabed topography, bathymetry and bottom currents and information on the reliability of such data;

(iii) data showing the average density (abundance) of polymetallic nodules in kg/m^2 and an associated abundance map showing the location of sampling sites;

(iv) data showing the average elemental content of metals of economic interest (grade) based on chemical assays in (dry) weight per cent and an associated grade map;

(v) combined maps of abundance and grade of polymetallic nodules;

(vi) a calculation based on standard procedures, including statistical analysis, using the data submitted and assumptions made in the calculations that the two areas could be expected to contain polymetallic nodules of equal estimated commercial value expressed as recoverable metals in mineable areas;

(vii) a description of the techniques used by the applicant.

(b) information concerning environmental parameters (seasonal and during test period) including, inter alia, wind speed and direction, wave height, period and direction, current speed and direction, water salinity, temperature and biological communities.

20. If the area under application includes any part of a reserved area, attach a list of coordinates of the area which forms part of the reserved area and indicate the applicant's qualifications in accordance with regulation 17 of the Regulations.

Section III

Financial and technical information^a

21. Attach sufficient information to enable the Council to determine whether the applicant is financially capable of carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration and of fulfilling its financial obligations to the Authority.

(a) If the application is made by the Enterprise, attach certification by its competent authority that the Enterprise has the necessary financial resources to meet the estimated costs of the proposed plan of work for exploration.

(b) If the application is made by a State or a state enterprise, attach a statement by the State or the sponsoring State certifying that the applicant has the necessary financial resources to meet the estimated costs of the proposed plan of work for exploration.

(c) If the application is made by an entity, attach copies of the applicant's audited financial statements, including balance sheets and profit-and-loss statements, for the most recent three years in conformity with internationally accepted accounting principles and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants; and

- (i) if the applicant is a newly organized entity and a certified balance sheet is not available, a pro forma balance sheet certified by an appropriate official of the applicant;
- (ii) if the applicant is a subsidiary of another entity, copies of such financial statements of that entity and a statement from that entity in conformity with internationally accepted accounting practices and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants that the applicant will have the financial resources to carry out the plan of work for exploration;
- (iii) if the applicant is controlled by a State or a state enterprise, a statement from the State or state enterprise certifying that the applicant will have the financial resources to carry out the plan of work for exploration.

22. If it is intended to finance the proposed plan of work by borrowings, attach a statement of the amount of such borrowings, the repayment period and the interest rate.

23. Attach sufficient information to enable the Council to determine whether the applicant is technically capable of carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration, including:

(a) a general description of the applicant's previous experience, knowledge, skills, technical qualifications and expertise relevant to the proposed plan of work for exploration;

^a An application for approval of a plan of work for exploration submitted on behalf of a State or entity, or any component of such entity, referred to in resolution II, paragraph 1(a)(ii) or (iii), other than a registered pioneer investor, which has already undertaken substantial activities in the Area prior to the entry into force of the Convention, or its successor in interest, shall be considered to have met the financial and technical qualifications necessary for approval of a plan of work if the sponsoring State or States certify that the applicant has expended an amount equivalent to at least US\$ 30 million in research and exploration activities and has expended no less than 10 per cent of that amount in the location, survey and evaluation of the area referred to in the plan of work.

(b) a general description of the equipment and methods expected to be used in carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration and other relevant non-proprietary information about the characteristics of such technology; and

(c) a general description of the applicant's financial and technical capability to respond to any incident or activity which causes serious harm to the marine environment.

Section IV

The plan of work for exploration

24. Attach the following information relating to the plan of work for exploration:

(a) a general description and a schedule of the proposed exploration programme, including the programme of activities for the immediate five-year period, such as studies to be undertaken in respect of the environmental, technical, economic and other appropriate factors which must be taken into account in exploration;

(b) a description of a programme for oceanographic and environmental baseline studies in accordance with the Regulations and any environmental rules, regulations and procedures established by the Authority that would enable an assessment of the potential environmental impact of the proposed exploration activities, taking into account any recommendations issued by the Legal and Technical Commission;

(c) a preliminary assessment of the possible impact of the proposed exploration activities on the marine environment;

(d) a description of proposed measures for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards, as well as possible impacts, to the marine environment;

(e) a schedule of anticipated yearly expenditures in respect of the programme of activities for the immediate five-year period.

Section V

Undertakings

25. Attach a written undertaking that the applicant will:

(a) accept as enforceable and comply with the applicable obligations created by the provisions of the Convention and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority and the terms of its contracts with the Authority;

(b) accept control by the Authority of activities in the Area as authorized by the Convention;

(c) provide the Authority with a written assurance that its obligations under the contract will be fulfilled in good faith.

Section VI

Previous contracts

26. Has the applicant or, in the case of an application by a partnership or consortium of entities in a joint arrangement, any member of the partnership or consortium previously been awarded any contract with the Authority?

27. If the answer to 26 is "yes", the application must include:

- (a) the date of the previous contract or contracts;
- (b) the dates, reference numbers and titles of each report submitted to the Authority in connection with the contract or contracts; and
- (c) the date of termination of the contract or contracts, if applicable.

Section VII

Attachments

28. List all the attachments and annexes to this application (all data and information should be submitted in hard copy and in a digital format specified by the Authority):

Date: _____

Signature of applicant's designated representative

ATTESTATION:

Signature of person attesting

Name of person attesting

Title of person attesting

Annex 3

CONTRACT FOR EXPLORATION

THIS CONTRACT made the day of between the INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY represented by its SECRETARY-GENERAL (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") and represented by (hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor") WITNESSETH as follows:

Incorporation of clauses

A. The standard clauses set out in Annex 4 to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area shall be incorporated herein and shall have effect as if herein set out at length.

Exploration area

B. For the purposes of this contract, the "exploration area" means that part of the Area allocated to the Contractor for exploration, defined by the coordinates listed in schedule 1 hereto, as reduced from time to time in accordance with the standard clauses and the Regulations.

Grant of rights

C. In consideration of:

(1) their mutual interest in the conduct of exploration activities in the exploration area pursuant to the Convention and the Agreement;

(2) the responsibility of the Authority to organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area, in accordance with the legal regime established in Part XI of the Convention and the Agreement and Part XII of the Convention respectively; and

(3) the interest and financial commitment of the Contractor in conducting activities in the exploration area and the mutual covenants made herein,

the Authority hereby grants to the Contractor the exclusive right to explore for polymetallic nodules in the exploration area in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract.

Entry into force and contract term

D. This contract shall enter into force on signature by both parties and, subject to the standard clauses, shall remain in force for a period of fifteen years thereafter unless:

(1) the Contractor obtains a contract for exploitation in the exploration area which enters into force before the expiration of such period of fifteen years; or

(2) the contract is sooner terminated, provided that the term of the contract may be extended in accordance with standard clauses 3.2 and 17.2.

Schedules

E. The schedules referred to in the standard clauses, namely section 4 and section 8, are for the purposes of this contract schedules 2 and 3 respectively.

Entire agreement

F. This contract expresses the entire agreement between the parties, and no oral understanding or prior writing shall modify the terms hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by the respective parties, have signed this contract at, this day of

SCHEDULE 1

[Coordinates and illustrative chart of the exploration area]

SCHEDULE 2

[The current five-year programme of activities as revised from time to time]

SCHEDULE 3

[The training programme shall become a schedule to the contract when approved by the Authority in accordance with section 8 of the standard clauses.]

Annex 4

STANDARD CLAUSES FOR EXPLORATION CONTRACT

Section 1

Definitions

1.1 In the following clauses:

(a) "exploration area" means that part of the Area allocated to the Contractor for exploration, described in schedule 1 hereto, as the same may be reduced from time to time in accordance with this contract and the Regulations;

(b) "programme of activities" means the programme of activities which is set out in schedule 2 hereto as the same may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with sections 4.3 and 4.4 hereof;

(c) "Regulations" means the Regulations for Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area, adopted by the Authority.

1.2 Terms and phrases defined in the Regulations shall have the same meaning in these standard clauses.

1.3 In accordance with the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, its provisions and Part XI of the Convention are to be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument; this contract and references in this contract to the Convention are to be interpreted and applied accordingly.

1.4 This contract includes the schedules to this contract, which shall be an integral part hereof.

Section 2

Security of tenure

2.1 The Contractor shall have security of tenure and this contract shall not be suspended, terminated or revised except in accordance with sections 20, 21 and 24 hereof.

2.2 The Contractor shall have the exclusive right to explore for polymetallic nodules in the exploration area in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract. The Authority shall ensure that no other entity operates in the exploration area for a different category of resources in a manner that might unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Contractor.

2.3 The Contractor, by notice to the Authority, shall have the right at any time to renounce without penalty the whole or part of its rights in the exploration area, provided that the Contractor shall remain liable for all obligations accrued prior to the date of such renunciation in respect of the area renounced.

2.4 Nothing in this contract shall be deemed to confer any right on the Contractor other than those rights expressly granted herein. The Authority reserves the right to enter into contracts with respect to resources other than polymetallic nodules with third parties in the area covered by this contract.

Section 3

Contract term

3.1 This contract shall enter into force on signature by both parties and shall remain in force for a period of fifteen years thereafter unless:

(a) the Contractor obtains a contract for exploitation in the exploration area which enters into force before the expiration of such period of fifteen years; or

(b) the contract is sooner terminated,

provided that the term of the contract may be extended in accordance with sections 3.2 and 17.2 hereof.

3.2 Upon application by the Contractor, not later than six months before the expiration of this contract, this contract may be extended for periods of not more than five years each on such terms and conditions as the Authority and the Contractor may then agree in accordance with the Regulations. Such extensions shall be approved if the Contractor has made efforts in good faith to comply with the requirements of this contract but for reasons beyond the Contractor's control has been unable to complete the necessary preparatory work for proceeding to the exploitation stage or if the prevailing economic circumstances do not justify proceeding to the exploitation stage.

3.3 Notwithstanding the expiration of this contract in accordance with section 3.1 hereof, if the Contractor has, at least 90 days prior to the date of expiration, applied for a contract for exploitation, the Contractor's rights and obligations under this contract shall continue until such time as the application has been considered and a contract for exploitation has been issued or refused.

Section 4

Exploration

4.1 The Contractor shall commence exploration in accordance with the time schedule stipulated in the programme of activities set out in schedule 2 hereto and shall adhere to such time periods or any modification thereto as provided for by this contract.

4.2 The Contractor shall carry out the programme of activities set out in schedule 2 hereto. In carrying out such activities the Contractor shall spend in each contract year not less than the amount specified in such programme, or any agreed review thereof, in actual and direct exploration expenditures.

4.3 The Contractor, with the consent of the Authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, may from time to time make such changes in the programme of activities and the expenditures specified therein as may be necessary and prudent in accordance with good mining industry practice, and taking into account the market conditions for the metals contained in polymetallic nodules and other relevant global economic conditions.

4.4 Not later than 90 days prior to the expiration of each five-year period from the date on which this contract enters into force in accordance with section 3 hereof, the Contractor and the Secretary-General shall jointly undertake a review of the implementation of the plan of work for exploration under this contract. The Secretary-General may require the Contractor to submit such additional data and information as may be necessary for the purposes of the review. In the light of the review, the Contractor shall indicate its programme of activities for the following five-year period, including a revised schedule of anticipated yearly expenditures, making such adjustments to its previous programme of activities as are necessary. Schedule 2 hereto shall be adjusted accordingly.

Section 5

Environmental monitoring

5.1 The Contractor shall take necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment arising from its activities in the Area as far as reasonably possible using the best technology available to it.

5.2 The Contractor shall, in accordance with the Regulations, gather environmental baseline data as exploration activities progress and develop and shall establish environmental baselines against which to assess the likely effects of the Contractor's activities on the marine environment.

5.3 The Contractor shall, in accordance with the Regulations, establish and carry out a programme to monitor and report on such effects on the marine environment. The Contractor shall cooperate with the Authority in the implementation of such monitoring.

5.4 The Contractor shall, within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, report to the Secretary-General on the implementation and results of the monitoring programme referred to in section 5.3 hereof and shall submit data and information in accordance with the Regulations.

5.5 Prior to the commencement of testing of collecting systems and processing operations, the Contractor shall submit to the Authority:

- (a) a site-specific environmental impact statement based on available meteorological, oceanographic and environmental data collected during the preceding phases of exploration and containing data that could be used to establish an environmental baseline against which to assess the likely effect of the mining tests;
- (b) an assessment of the effects on the marine environment of the proposed tests of collecting systems;
- (c) a proposal for a monitoring programme to determine the effect on the marine environment of the equipment that will be used during the proposed mining tests.

Section 6

Contingency plans and emergencies

6.1 The Contractor shall, prior to the commencement of its programme of activities under this contract, submit to the Secretary-General a contingency plan to respond effectively to incidents that are likely to cause serious harm to the marine environment arising from the Contractor's activities at sea in the exploration area. Such contingency plan shall establish special procedures and provide for adequate and appropriate equipment to deal with such incidents and, in particular, shall include arrangements for:

- (a) the immediate raising of a general alarm in the area of the exploration activities;
- (b) immediate notification to the Secretary-General;
- (c) the warning of ships which might be about to enter the immediate vicinity;
- (d) a continuing flow of full information to the Secretary-General relating to particulars of the contingency measures already taken and further actions required;
- (e) the removal, as appropriate, of polluting substances;

(f) the reduction and, so far as reasonably possible, prevention of serious harm to the marine environment, as well as mitigation of such effects;

(g) as appropriate, cooperation with other contractors with the Authority to respond to an emergency; and

(h) periodic emergency response exercises.

6.2 The Contractor shall promptly report to the Secretary-General any incident arising from its activities that has caused or is likely to cause serious harm to the marine environment. Each such report shall contain the details of such incident, including, inter alia:

(a) the coordinates of the area affected or which can reasonably be anticipated to be affected;

(b) the description of the action being taken by the Contractor to prevent, contain, minimize and repair the serious harm to the marine environment;

(c) a description of the action being taken by the Contractor to monitor the effects of the incident on the marine environment; and

(d) such supplementary information as may reasonably be required by the Secretary-General.

6.3 The Contractor shall comply with emergency orders issued by the Council and immediate measures of a temporary nature issued by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Regulations, to prevent, contain, minimize or repair serious harm to the marine environment, which may include orders to the Contractor to immediately suspend or adjust any activities in the exploration area.

6.4 If the Contractor does not promptly comply with such emergency orders or immediate measures of a temporary nature, the Council may take such reasonable measures as are necessary to prevent, contain, minimize or repair any such serious harm to the marine environment at the Contractor's expense. The Contractor shall promptly reimburse the Authority the amount of such expenses. Such expenses shall be in addition to any monetary penalties which may be imposed on the Contractor pursuant to the terms of this contract or the Regulations.

Section 7

Objects of an archaeological or historical nature

The Contractor shall immediately notify the Secretary-General in writing of any finding in the exploration area of an object of an archaeological or historical nature and its location. Following the finding of any such object of an archaeological or historical nature in the exploration area, the Contractor shall take all reasonable measures to avoid disturbing such object.

Section 8

Training

8.1 In accordance with the Regulations, the Contractor shall, prior to the commencement of exploration under this contract, submit to the Authority for approval proposed training programmes for the training of personnel of the Authority and developing States, including the participation of such personnel in all of the Contractor's activities under this contract.

8.2. The scope and financing of the training programme shall be subject to negotiation between the Contractor, the Authority and the sponsoring State or States.

8.3 The Contractor shall conduct training programmes in accordance with the specific programme for the training of personnel referred to in section 8.1 hereof approved by the Authority in accordance with the Regulations, which programme, as revised and developed from time to time, shall become a part of this contract as schedule 3.

Section 9

Books and records

The Contractor shall keep a complete and proper set of books, accounts and financial records, consistent with internationally accepted accounting principles. Such books, accounts and financial records shall include information which will fully disclose the actual and direct expenditures for exploration and such other information as will facilitate an effective audit of such expenditures.

Section 10

Annual reports

10.1 The Contractor shall, within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, submit a report to the Secretary-General covering its programme of activities in the exploration area and containing, as applicable, information in sufficient detail on:

- (a) the exploration work carried out during the calendar year, including maps, charts and graphs illustrating the work that has been done and the results obtained;
- (b) the equipment used to carry out the exploration work, including the results of tests conducted of proposed mining technologies, but not equipment design data; and
- (c) the implementation of training programmes, including any proposed revisions to or developments of such programmes.

10.2 Such reports shall also contain:

- (a) the results obtained from environmental monitoring programmes, including observations, measurements, evaluations and analyses of environmental parameters;
- (b) a statement of the quantity of polymetallic nodules recovered as samples or for the purpose of testing;
- (c) a statement, in conformity with internationally accepted accounting principles and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants, or, where the Contractor is a State or a state enterprise, by the sponsoring State, of the actual and direct exploration expenditures of the Contractor in carrying out the programme of activities during the Contractor's accounting year. Such expenditures may be claimed by the contractor as part of the contractor's development costs incurred prior to the commencement of commercial production; and
- (d) details of any proposed adjustments to the programme of activities and the reasons for such adjustments.

10.3 The Contractor shall also submit such additional information to supplement the reports referred to in sections 10.1 and 10.2 hereof as the Secretary-General may from time to time reasonably require in order to carry out the Authority's functions under the Convention, the Regulations and this contract.

10.4 The Contractor shall keep, in good condition, a representative portion of samples of the polymetallic nodules obtained in the course of exploration until the expiration of this contract. The Authority may request the Contractor in writing to deliver to it for analysis a portion of any such sample obtained during the course of exploration.

Section 11

Data and information to be submitted on expiration of the contract

11.1 The Contractor shall transfer to the Authority all data and information that are both necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of the powers and functions of the Authority in respect of the exploration area in accordance with the provisions of this section.

11.2 Upon expiration or termination of this contract the Contractor, if it has not already done so, shall submit the following data and information to the Secretary-General:

(a) copies of geological, environmental, geochemical and geophysical data acquired by the Contractor in the course of carrying out the programme of activities that are necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of the powers and functions of the Authority in respect of the exploration area;

(b) the estimation of mineable areas, when such areas have been identified, which shall include details of the grade and quantity of the proven, probable and possible polymetallic nodule reserves and the anticipated mining conditions;

(c) copies of geological, technical, financial and economic reports made by or for the Contractor that are necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of the powers and functions of the Authority in respect of the exploration area;

(d) information in sufficient detail on the equipment used to carry out the exploration work, including the results of tests conducted of proposed mining technologies, but not equipment design data; and

(e) a statement of the quantity of polymetallic nodules recovered as samples or for the purpose of testing.

11.3 The data and information referred to in section 11.2 hereof shall also be submitted to the Secretary-General if, prior to the expiration of this contract, the Contractor applies for approval of a plan of work for exploitation or if the Contractor renounces its rights in the exploration area to the extent that such data and information relates to the renounced area.

Section 12

Confidentiality

Data and information transferred to the Authority in accordance with this contract shall be treated as confidential in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

Section 13

Undertakings

13.1 The Contractor shall carry out exploration in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract, the Regulations, Part XI of the Convention, the Agreement and other rules of international law not incompatible with the Convention.

13.2 The Contractor undertakes:

- (a) to accept as enforceable and comply with the terms of this contract;
- (b) to comply with the applicable obligations created by the provisions of the Convention, the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority and the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority;
- (c) to accept control by the Authority of activities in the Area as authorized by the Convention;
- (d) to fulfil its obligations under this contract in good faith; and
- (e) to observe, as far as reasonably practicable, any recommendations which may be issued from time to time by the Legal and Technical Commission.

13.3 The Contractor shall actively carry out the programme of activities:

- (a) with due diligence, efficiency and economy;
- (b) with due regard to the impact of its activities on the marine environment; and
- (c) with reasonable regard for other activities in the marine environment.

13.4 The Authority undertakes to fulfil in good faith its powers and functions under the Convention and the Agreement in accordance with article 157 of the Convention.

Section 14

Inspection

14.1 The Contractor shall permit the Authority to send its inspectors on board vessels and installations used by the Contractor to carry out activities in the exploration area to:

- (a) monitor the Contractor's compliance with the terms and conditions of this contract and the Regulations; and
- (b) monitor the effects of such activities on the marine environment.

14.2 The Secretary-General shall give reasonable notice to the Contractor of the projected time and duration of inspections, the name of the inspectors and any activities the inspectors are to perform that are likely to require the availability of special equipment or special assistance from personnel of the Contractor.

14.3 Such inspectors shall have the authority to inspect any vessel or installation, including its log, equipment, records, facilities, all other recorded data and any relevant documents which are necessary to monitor the Contractor's compliance.

14.4 The Contractor, its agents and employees shall assist the inspectors in the performance of their duties and shall:

- (a) accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding of vessels and installations by inspectors;
- (b) cooperate with and assist in the inspection of any vessel or installation conducted pursuant to these procedures;
- (c) provide access to all relevant equipment, facilities and personnel on vessels and installations at all reasonable times;
- (d) not obstruct, intimidate or interfere with inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- (e) provide reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation, to inspectors; and
- (f) facilitate safe disembarkation by inspectors.

14.5 Inspectors shall avoid interference with the safe and normal operations on board vessels and installations used by the Contractor to carry out activities in the area visited and shall act in accordance with the Regulations and the measures adopted to protect confidentiality of data and information.

14.6 The Secretary-General and any duly authorized representatives of the Secretary-General, shall have access, for purposes of audit and examination, to any books, documents, papers and records of the Contractor which are necessary and directly pertinent to verify the expenditures referred to in section 10.2(c).

14.7 The Secretary-General shall provide relevant information contained in the reports of inspectors to the Contractor and its sponsoring State or States where action is necessary.

14.8 If for any reason the contractor does not pursue exploration and does not request a contract for exploitation, it shall, before withdrawing from the exploration area, notify the Secretary-General in writing in order to permit the Authority, if it so decides, to carry out an inspection pursuant to this section.

Section 15

Safety, labour and health standards

15.1 The Contractor shall comply with the generally accepted international rules and standards established by competent international organizations or general diplomatic conferences concerning the safety of life at sea, and the prevention of collisions and such rules, regulations and procedures as may be adopted by the Authority relating to safety at sea. Each vessel used for carrying out activities in the Area shall possess current valid certificates required by and issued pursuant to such international rules and standards.

15.2 The Contractor shall, in carrying out exploration under this contract, observe and comply with such rules, regulations and procedures as may be adopted by the Authority relating to protection against discrimination in employment, occupational safety and health, labour relations, social security, employment security and living conditions at the work site. Such rules, regulations and procedures shall take into account conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization and other competent international organizations.

Section 16

Responsibility and liability

16.1 The Contractor shall be liable for the actual amount of any damage, including damage to the marine environment, arising out of its wrongful acts or omissions, and those of its employees, subcontractors, agents and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract, including the costs of reasonable measures to prevent or limit damage to the marine environment, account being taken of any contributory acts or omissions by the Authority.

16.2 The Contractor shall indemnify the Authority, its employees, subcontractors and agents against all claims and liabilities of any third party arising out of any wrongful acts or omissions of the Contractor and its employees, agents and subcontractors, and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract.

16.3 The Authority shall be liable for the actual amount of any damage to the Contractor arising out of its wrongful acts in the exercise of its powers and functions, including violations under article 168, paragraph 2, of the Convention, account being taken of contributory acts or omissions by the Contractor, its employees, agents and subcontractors, and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract.

16.4 The Authority shall indemnify the Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, agents and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract, against all claims and liabilities of any third party arising out of any wrongful acts or omissions in the exercise of its powers and functions hereunder, including violations under article 168, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

16.5 The Contractor shall maintain appropriate insurance policies with internationally recognized carriers, in accordance with generally accepted international maritime practice.

Section 17

Force majeure

17.1 The Contractor shall not be liable for an unavoidable delay or failure to perform any of its obligations under this contract due to force majeure. For the purposes of this contract, force majeure shall mean an event or condition that the Contractor could not reasonably be expected to prevent or control; provided that the event or condition was not caused by negligence or by a failure to observe good mining industry practice.

17.2 The Contractor shall, upon request, be granted a time extension equal to the period by which performance was delayed hereunder by force majeure and the term of this contract shall be extended accordingly.

17.3 In the event of force majeure, the Contractor shall take all reasonable measures to remove its inability to perform and comply with the terms and conditions of this contract with a minimum of delay; provided that the Contractor shall not be obligated to resolve or terminate any labour dispute or any other disagreement with a third party except on terms satisfactory to it or pursuant to a final decision of any agency having jurisdiction to resolve the dispute.

17.4 The Contractor shall give notice to the Authority of the occurrence of an event of force majeure as soon as reasonably possible, and similarly give notice to the Authority of the restoration of normal conditions.

Section 18

Disclaimer

Neither the Contractor nor any affiliated company or subcontractor shall in any manner claim or suggest, whether expressly or by implication, that the Authority or any official thereof has, or has expressed, any opinion with respect to polymetallic nodules in the exploration area and a statement to that effect shall not be included in or endorsed on any prospectus, notice, circular, advertisement, press release or similar document issued by the Contractor, any affiliated company or any subcontractor that refers directly or indirectly to this contract. For the purposes of this section, an "affiliated company" means any person, firm or company or State-owned entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, the Contractor.

Section 19

Renunciation of rights

The Contractor, by notice to the Authority, shall have the right to renounce its rights and terminate this contract without penalty, provided that the Contractor shall remain liable for all obligations accrued prior to the date of such renunciation and those obligations required to be fulfilled after termination in accordance with the Regulations.

Section 20

Termination of sponsorship

20.1 If the nationality or control of the Contractor changes or the Contractor's sponsoring State, as defined in the Regulations, terminates its sponsorship, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Authority forthwith.

20.2 In either such event, if the Contractor does not obtain another sponsor meeting the requirements prescribed in the Regulations which submits to the Authority a certificate of sponsorship for the Contractor in the prescribed form within the time specified in the Regulations, this contract shall terminate forthwith.

Section 21

Suspension and termination of contract and penalties

21.1 The Council may suspend or terminate this contract, without prejudice to any other rights that the Authority may have, if any of the following events should occur:

(a) if, in spite of written warnings by the Authority, the Contractor has conducted its activities in such a way as to result in serious persistent and wilful violations of the fundamental terms of this contract, Part XI of the Convention, the Agreement and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority; or

(b) if the Contractor has failed to comply with a final binding decision of the dispute settlement body applicable to it; or

(c) if the Contractor becomes insolvent or commits an act of bankruptcy or enters into any agreement for composition with its creditors or goes into liquidation or receivership, whether compulsory or voluntary, or petitions or applies to any tribunal for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee or receiver for itself or commences any proceedings relating to itself under any bankruptcy, insolvency or readjustment of debt law, whether now or hereafter in effect, other than for the purpose of reconstruction.

21.2 Any suspension or termination shall be by notice, through the Secretary-General, which shall include a statement of the reasons for taking such action. The suspension or termination shall be effective

60 days after such notice, unless the Contractor within such period disputes the Authority's right to suspend or terminate this contract in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

21.3 If the Contractor takes such action, this contract shall only be suspended or terminated in accordance with a final binding decision in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

21.4 If the Council has suspended this contract, the Council may by notice require the Contractor to resume its operations and comply with the terms and conditions of this contract, not later than 60 days after such notice.

21.5 In the case of any violation of this contract not covered by section 21.1(a) hereof, or in lieu of suspension or termination under section 21.1 hereof, the Council may impose upon the Contractor monetary penalties proportionate to the seriousness of the violation.

21.6 The Council may not execute a decision involving monetary penalties until the Contractor has been accorded a reasonable opportunity to exhaust the judicial remedies available to it pursuant to Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

21.7 In the event of termination or expiration of this contract, the Contractor shall comply with the Regulations and shall remove all installations, plant, equipment and materials in the exploration area and shall make the area safe so as not to constitute a danger to persons, shipping or to the marine environment.

Section 22

Transfer of rights and obligations

22.1 The rights and obligations of the Contractor under this contract may be transferred in whole or in part only with the consent of the Authority and in accordance with the Regulations.

22.2 The Authority shall not unreasonably withhold consent to the transfer if the proposed transferee is in all respects a qualified applicant in accordance with the Regulations and assumes all of the obligations of the Contractor and if the transfer does not confer to the transferee a plan of work, the approval of which would be forbidden by Annex 3, article 6, paragraph 3(c), of the Convention.

22.3 The terms, undertakings and conditions of this contract shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

Section 23

No waiver

No waiver by either party of any rights pursuant to a breach of the terms and conditions of this contract to be performed by the other party shall be construed as a waiver by the party of any succeeding breach of the same or any other term or condition to be performed by the other party.

Section 24

Revision

24.1 When circumstances have arisen or are likely to arise which, in the opinion of the Authority or the Contractor, would render this contract inequitable or make it impracticable or impossible to achieve the objectives set out in this contract or in Part XI of the Convention or the Agreement, the parties shall enter into negotiations to revise it accordingly.

24.2 This contract may also be revised by agreement between the Contractor and the Authority to facilitate the application of any rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Authority subsequent to the entry into force of this contract.

24.3 This contract may be revised, amended or otherwise modified only with the consent of the Contractor and the Authority by an appropriate instrument signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.

Section 25

Disputes

25.1 Any dispute between the parties concerning the interpretation or application of this contract shall be settled in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

25.2 Any final decision rendered by a court or tribunal having jurisdiction under the Convention relating to the rights and obligations of the Authority and of the Contractor shall be enforceable in the territory of each State Party to the Convention.

Section 26

Notice

26.1 Any application, request, notice, report, consent, approval, waiver, direction or instruction hereunder shall be made by the Secretary-General or by the designated representative of the Contractor, as the case may be, in writing. Service shall be by hand, or by telex, facsimile or registered airmail to the Secretary-General at the headquarters of the Authority or to the designated representative.

26.2 Either party shall be entitled to change any such address to any other address by not less than ten days' notice to the other party.

26.3 Delivery by hand shall be effective when made. Delivery by telex shall be deemed to be effective on the business day following the day when the "answer back" appears on the sender's telex machine. Delivery by facsimile shall be effective when the "transmit confirmation report" confirming the transmission to the recipient's published facsimile number is received by the transmitter. Delivery by registered airmail shall be deemed to be effective 21 days after posting.

26.4 Notice to the designated representative of the Contractor shall constitute effective notice to the Contractor for all purposes under this contract, and the designated representative shall be the Contractor's agent for the service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

26.5 Notice to the Secretary-General shall constitute effective notice to the Authority for all purposes under this contract, and the Secretary-General shall be the Authority's agent for the service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

Section 27

Applicable law

27.1 This contract shall be governed by the terms of this contract, the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, Part XI of the Convention, the Agreement and other rules of international law not incompatible with the Convention.

27.2 The Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, agents and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract shall observe the applicable law referred to in section 27.1 hereof and shall not engage in any transaction, directly or indirectly, prohibited by the applicable law.

27.3 Nothing contained in this contract shall be deemed an exemption from the necessity of applying for and obtaining any permit or authority that may be required for any activities under this contract.

Section 28

Interpretation

The division of this contract into sections and subsections and the insertion of headings are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation hereof.

Section 29

Additional documents

Each party hereto agrees to execute and deliver all such further instruments, and to do and perform all such further acts and things as may be necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this contract.



Asamblea Consejo

Distr. general
10 de julio de 2000
Español
Original: inglés

Autoridad Internacional de los fondos marinos
Continuación del sexto período de sesiones
Kingston (Jamaica)
3 a 14 de julio de 2000

Proyecto de presupuesto de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos para el ejercicio económico 2001 a 2002

Informe del Comité de Finanzas

1. Durante la continuación del sexto período de sesiones de la Autoridad, el Comité de Finanzas celebró cuatro sesiones los días 6 y 7 de julio de 2000. El Comité volvió a elegir a Doménico da Empoli (Italia) como su Presidente.
2. El Comité examinó el proyecto de presupuesto de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos para el ejercicio económico bienal 2001 a 2002 (ISBA/6/A/7-ISBA/6/C/4), que asciende a un monto de 10.506.400 dólares. El Comité examinó el proyecto de presupuesto teniendo a la vista los informes financieros comprobados de la Autoridad correspondientes a 1999. De conformidad con el párrafo 5.5 del Reglamento Financiero de la Autoridad, las cuotas de los miembros de la Autoridad para los presupuestos administrativos de ésta en 2001 y 2002 deberán prorratearse sobre la base de la mitad de las consignaciones aprobadas por la Asamblea para ese ejercicio económico bienal. Por consiguiente, las cuotas de los miembros de la Autoridad para los presupuestos administrativos de 2001 y 2002 ascenderán a 5.253.200 dólares en 2001 y en 2002, salvo los ajustes que se efectúen de conformidad con lo dispuesto en los incisos a) a d) del párrafo 6.3.
3. El Comité decidió recomendar que se aprobara el proyecto de presupuesto para el ejercicio económico 2001 a 2002, que asciende a un monto de 10.506.400 dólares.
4. El Comité consideró que, si bien la duración de las sesiones era un asunto que debía decidir la Asamblea, los créditos previstos para sufragar los gastos de servicios de conferencias de la Autoridad para los años 2001 y 2002 serían suficientes para celebrar un período de sesiones de dos o de tres semanas, cada año. El Comité formula esta recomendación teniendo presente la ejecución del presupuesto que se detalla en los informes financieros correspondientes a 1999.
5. El Comité de Finanzas tomó nota de que, al 7 de julio de 2000, el monto total de cuotas recibidas para el presupuesto administrativo de 2000 ascendía a 4.060.372 dólares, lo que equivalía al 79% del presupuesto. Aún estaban pendientes de pago cuotas por valor de 1.110.328 dólares. El atraso de los miembros en el pago de las

cuotas para 1998 y 1999 ascendía a 1.291.200 dólares y a 167.562 dólares, respectivamente. El Comité expresó preocupación por las cuotas correspondientes a 1998 y 1999 que estaban pendientes de pago y los retrasos en el pago de las contribuciones correspondientes a 2000. El Comité observó que los atrasos correspondientes a 1998 y 1999 ascendían a un total de 1.458.762 dólares. El Comité recomienda que la Asamblea haga un llamamiento a los miembros y a los ex miembros provisionales que aún no hayan pagado sus cuotas y adelantos correspondientes a los presupuestos administrativos y al Fondo de Operaciones. El Comité recomienda también que el Secretario General señale esta cuestión a la atención de dichos morosos.

Fondo de Operaciones

6. En el tercer período de sesiones de la Asamblea, la Autoridad decidió establecer un Fondo de Operaciones por un monto de 392.000 dólares, que equivalía aproximadamente a la doceava parte del presupuesto aprobado para 1998, de los cuales 196.000 dólares se pagarían en 1998 y 196.000 dólares en 1999. El Comité observó que, en tanto el monto aprobado del Fondo asciende a 392.000 dólares, las contribuciones al Fondo que están pendientes de pago ascienden a 60.853 dólares (incluidos los atrasos de tres miembros provisionales, que ascienden a 49.935 dólares). El Comité de Finanzas examinó la propuesta del Secretario General a ese respecto y formuló las siguientes recomendaciones en relación con el Fondo:

“En primer lugar, en razón de que 7 miembros provisionales, dejaron de ser parte de la Autoridad, el número de miembros de ésta se redujo en 1999. Al efectuarse una supervisión, la Autoridad no imputó a los ex miembros las cuotas correspondientes a 1999 ni ajustó las cuotas de los miembros restantes para constituir la segunda mitad del Fondo de Operaciones, que debía pagarse en 1999. De resultas de ello, el Fondo de Operaciones sufrió un déficit de 58.635 dólares. Se propone que esa suma sea prorrateada de conformidad con la escala de cuotas convenida para el año 2001.

En segundo lugar, también se propuso aumentar el monto del Fondo de Operaciones de 392.000 dólares a 438.000 dólares (un incremento de 46.000 dólares), lo que representaría una doceava parte de los gastos anuales estimados para el bienio 2001–2002. Esto es sin perjuicio de las decisiones que se adopten en el futuro respecto del monto del Fondo, puesto que debería tenerse en cuenta la utilización real del Fondo en la práctica.”

7. Por consiguiente, el Comité recomienda que se procure obtener un monto adicional total de 104.635 dólares (58.635 dólares más 46.000 dólares), que se prorratearía entre los Estados miembros de conformidad con la escala de cuotas convenida para el año 2001.

8. Estas propuestas no modifican en modo alguno las cuotas atrasadas de los miembros o de los ex miembros de la Autoridad.

Escala de cuotas

9. El Comité recomienda que la escala de cuotas para el presupuesto administrativo correspondiente a 2001 y 2002 se base en la escala de cuotas para el presupuesto ordinario de las Naciones Unidas para los años 2000 y 2001, respectivamente. El Comité recomienda asimismo que los montos máximo y mínimo se mantengan en el mismo nivel de 1999. Ningún miembro deberá aportar una suma superior al 25% o inferior al 0,01% del presupuesto de la Autoridad. En lo que respecta a la cuota convenida de la Comunidad Europea, el Comité reconoció que la Autoridad examinaría y determinaría ocasionalmente las cuotas correspondientes teniendo en cuenta el monto total del presupuesto. A ese respecto, el Comité recomendó que la cuota para los años 2001 y 2002 fuera la misma que para el año 2000.

10. El Comité recomienda que Nicaragua, que pasó a ser miembro de la Autoridad el 2 de junio de 2000, aporte el monto prorrateado de 297 dólares para el presupuesto administrativo de la Autoridad para 2000 (tasa de prorrateo de 0,01%) y que adelante el monto de 12 dólares al Fondo de Operaciones. Esta contribución se acreditará en carácter de ingresos varios de conformidad con el Reglamento Financiero.

Comprobación de cuentas de 1999

11. El Comité tomó nota de que la firma KPMG Peat Marwick, designada para comprobar las cuentas de 1999 de la Autoridad, había revisado los estados financieros de ésta. El informe de los auditores, que contiene los estados financieros páginas 2 a 6 y las notas de referencia (páginas 7 a 11), se transmite al Consejo y a la Asamblea adjunto al presente documento, de conformidad con el párrafo 12.8 del Reglamento Financiero.

12. El Comité tomó nota con reconocimiento de la opinión expresada por KPMG Peat Marwick en el sentido de que las cuentas se habían asentado correctamente y los estados financieros, que concordaban con éstas, se habían preparado de conformidad con los principios de contabilidad habitualmente aceptados y reflejaban fielmente y con precisión, al 31 de diciembre de 1999, la situación de la Autoridad sus operaciones y sus corrientes de efectivo.

13. La Secretaría informó al Comité de que, tras efectuarse la comprobación de cuentas, se había comenzado a poner en práctica los cambios siguientes:

a) Antes de efectuar un pago por concepto de horas extraordinarias, la Autoridad se cerciorará de que se haya dado la aprobación previa correspondiente, y cuando las horas trabajadas excedan del monto aprobado, se proporcionarán las explicaciones pertinentes;

b) La Autoridad hizo plenamente suyas las Normas de Contabilidad de las Naciones Unidas;

c) La Autoridad, de conformidad con lo dispuesto en el párrafo 11.3 del Reglamento Financiero, mantendrá cuentas separadas para los fondos fiduciarios, los fondos de reserva y las cuentas especiales;

d) La Autoridad hará los ajustes necesarios para corregir el déficit del Fondo de Operaciones resultante de los cambios efectuados en 1999 en la composición de los miembros;

e) La Autoridad seguirá manteniendo un registro amplio de los activos fijos, que incluye la descripción, el costo, la ubicación, la fecha de compra o de enajenación y las ganancias obtenidas por ese concepto, lo cual generalmente se conoce como los asientos de bienes no fungibles de la Autoridad.

14. El Comité de Finanzas recomienda que, en el futuro, se consignen créditos para celebrar consultas con los auditores cuando el Comité examine los estados financieros de la Autoridad y el informe de los auditores.

15. El Comité de Finanzas toma nota de la presentación del informe de los auditores de la Autoridad correspondiente a 1999 y recomienda que, en el futuro, los auditores cumplan estrictamente lo dispuesto en el párrafo 12 y en el anexo (incluido el párrafo 5) del Reglamento Financiero. A este respecto, el Comité recomienda también que en todas las comprobaciones de cuentas futuras se incorporen las observaciones prescritas en el párrafo 12.3.

16. El Comité de Finanzas toma nota de las mejoras introducidas en la administración de la Autoridad desde que se efectuó la última comprobación de cuentas.

Nombramiento de auditores para 2000

17. En vista de la experiencia de KPMG Peat Marwick, el Comité de Finanzas decidió recomendar que se nombre a la firma KPMG Peat Marwick para que compruebe las cuentas de la Autoridad correspondientes al año 2000, sin perjuicio de una posible prórroga.

International Seabed Authority

Summary of total budget for the biennium 2001-2002

(In United States dollars)

Total, administrative budget	10,506,400
Income:	
Bank interest	80,000
Assessed contribution from Nicaragua	297
Refund of previous years' surplus	600,000
Total, net requirements	<u>9,826,103</u>
	Rounded to <u><u>9,826,100</u></u>

Note:

In accordance with Financial Reg. 6.3 members of the Authority will be assessed on the basis of half of \$9,826,100, i.e. \$4,913,050, for each of the two years.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
2001 ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS
BASED ON REGULAR BUDGET SCALE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR 2000 a/
(In United States Dollars)
Net annual requirements of US\$ 4,913,050

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
1	Algeria	0.086	0.132%	6,395
2	Angola	0.010	0.010%	483
3	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.010%	483
4	Argentina	1.103	1.697%	82,016
5	Australia	1.483	2.282%	110,272
6	Austria	0.942	1.449%	70,045
7	Bahamas	0.015	0.023%	1,115
8	Bahrain	0.017	0.026%	1,264
9	Barbados	0.008	0.010%	483
10	Belize	0.001	0.010%	483
11	Belgium	1.104	1.699%	82,091
12	Benin	0.002	0.010%	483
13	Bolivia	0.007	0.010%	483
14	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.005	0.010%	483
15	Botswana	0.010	0.010%	483
16	Brazil	1.471	2.263%	109,380
17	Brunei Darussalam	0.020	0.031%	1,487
18	Bulgaria	0.011	0.017%	818
19	Cameroon	0.013	0.020%	967
20	Cape Verde	0.002	0.010%	483
21	Chile	0.136	0.209%	10,113
22	China	0.995	1.531%	73,986
23	Comoros	0.001	0.010%	483
24	Cook Islands b/	0.001	0.010%	483
25	Costa Rica	0.016	0.025%	1,190
26	Cote d'Ivoire	0.009	0.010%	483
27	Croatia	0.030	0.046%	2,231
28	Cuba	0.024	0.037%	1,785
29	Cyprus	0.034	0.052%	2,528
30	Czech Republic	0.107	0.165%	7,956
31	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.007	0.010%	483
32	Djibouti	0.001	0.010%	483
33	Dominica	0.001	0.010%	483
34	Egypt	0.065	0.100%	4,833

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
35	Equatorial Guinea	0.001	0.010%	483
36	Fiji	0.004	0.010%	483
37	Finland	0.543	0.835%	40,376
38	France	6.545	10.070%	486,669
39	Gabon	0.015	0.023%	1,115
40	Gambia	0.001	0.010%	483
41	Georgia	0.007	0.010%	483
42	Germany	9.857	15.165%	732,940
43	Ghana	0.007	0.010%	483
44	Greece	0.351	0.540%	26,099
45	Grenada	0.001	0.010%	483
46	Guatemala	0.018	0.028%	1,338
47	Guinea	0.003	0.010%	483
48	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.010%	483
49	Guyana	0.001	0.010%	483
50	Haiti	0.002	0.010%	483
51	Honduras	0.003	0.010%	483
52	Iceland	0.032	0.049%	2,379
53	India	0.299	0.460%	22,233
54	Indonesia	0.188	0.289%	13,979
55	Iraq	0.032	0.049%	2,379
56	Ireland	0.224	0.345%	16,656
57	Italy	5.437	8.365%	404,281
58	Jamaica	0.006	0.010%	483
59	Japan	20.573	25.000%	1,208,263
60	Jordan	0.006	0.010%	483
61	Kenya	0.007	0.010%	483
62	Kuwait	0.128	0.197%	9,518
63	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.010%	483
64	Lebanon	0.016	0.025%	1,190
65	Malaysia	0.183	0.282%	13,607
66	Mali	0.002	0.010%	483
67	Malta	0.014	0.022%	1,041
68	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010%	483
69	Mauritania	0.001	0.010%	483
70	Mauritius	0.009	0.010%	483
71	Mexico	0.995	1.531%	73,986
72	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.010%	483
73	Monaco	0.004	0.010%	483

Handwritten notes:
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	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
74	Mongolia	0.002	0.010%	483
75	Mozambique	0.001	0.010%	483
76	Myanmar	0.008	0.010%	483
77	Namibia	0.007	0.010%	483
78	Nauru	0.001	0.010%	483
79	Nepal	0.004	0.010%	483
80	Netherlands	1.632	2.511%	121,351
81	New Zealand	0.221	0.340%	16,433
82	Nicaragua	0.001	0.010%	483
83	Nigeria	0.032	0.049%	2,379
84	Norway	0.610	0.938%	45,358
85	Oman	0.051	0.078%	3,792
86	Pakistan	0.059	0.091%	4,387
87	Palau	0.001	0.010%	483
88	Panama	0.013	0.020%	967
89	Papua New Guinea	0.007	0.010%	483
90	Paraguay	0.014	0.022%	1,041
91	Philippines	0.081	0.125%	6,023
92	Poland	0.196	0.302%	14,574
93	Portugal	0.431	0.663%	32,048
94	Republic of Korea	1.006	1.548%	74,803
95	Romania	0.056	0.086%	4,164
96	Russian Federation	1.077	1.657%	80,083
97	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.010%	483
98	Saint Lucia	0.001	0.010%	483
99	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.010%	483
100	Samoa	0.001	0.010%	483
101	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.010%	483
102	Saudi Arabia	0.562	0.865%	41,789
103	Senegal	0.006	0.010%	483
104	Seychelles	0.002	0.010%	483
105	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.010%	483
106	Singapore	0.179	0.275%	13,310
107	Slovakia	0.035	0.054%	2,603
108	Slovenia	0.061	0.094%	4,536
109	Solomon Islands	0.001	0.010%	483
110	Somalia	0.001	0.010%	483
111	South Africa	0.366	0.563%	27,215

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
112	Spain	2.591	3.986%	192,660
113	Sri Lanka	0.012	0.018%	89
114	Sudan	0.007	0.010%	483
115	Suriname	0.004	0.010%	483
116	Sweden	1.079	1.660%	80,23
117	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.004	0.010%	483
118	Togo	0.001	0.010%	48
119	Tonga	0.001	0.010%	483
120	Trinidad and Tobago	0.016	0.025%	1,190
121	Tunisia	0.028	0.043%	2,08
122	Uganda	0.004	0.010%	483
123	Ukraine	0.190	0.292%	14,120
124	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.092	7.834%	378,628
125	United Republic of Tanzania	0.003	0.010%	48
126	Uruguay	0.048	0.074%	3,560
127	Vanuatu b/	0.001	0.010%	483
128	Viet Nam	0.007	0.010%	48
129	Yemen	0.010	0.010%	483
130	Yugoslavia	0.026	0.040%	1,933
131	Zambia	0.002	0.010%	48
132	Zimbabwe	0.009	0.010%	483
		69.123	100.000%	4,833,050

International organizations in accordance with annex IX

133	European Community c/			80,00
			Total	4,913,050

- a/ 1998-1999-2000 assessment rate as contained in A/52/215 of 20 Jan.1998
b/ Rate recommended by the Council.
c/ This amount will be reviewed and determined from time to time by the Authority, taking into consideration the total amount of the budget.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

2001 ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND

ASSESSED ON THE BASIS OF REGULAR BUDGET SCALE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR 2000 a/

(In United States Dollars)

Total additional amount of US\$ 104,635

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
1	Algeria	0.086	0.132%	136
2	Angola	0.010	0.010%	10
3	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.010%	10
4	Argentina	1.103	1.697%	1,739
5	Australia	1.483	2.282%	2,339
6	Austria	0.942	1.450%	1,485
7	Bahamas	0.015	0.023%	24
8	Bahrain	0.017	0.026%	27
9	Barbados	0.008	0.010%	10
10	Belize	0.001	0.010%	10
11	Belgium	1.104	1.699%	1,741
12	Benin	0.002	0.010%	10
13	Bolivia	0.007	0.010%	10
14	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.005	0.010%	10
15	Botswana	0.010	0.010%	10
16	Brazil	1.471	2.264%	2,320
17	Brunei Darussalam	0.020	0.031%	32
18	Bulgaria	0.011	0.017%	17
19	Cameroon	0.013	0.020%	21
20	Cape Verde	0.002	0.010%	10
21	Chile	0.136	0.209%	214
22	China	0.995	1.531%	1,569
23	Comoros	0.001	0.010%	10
24	Cook Islands b/	0.001	0.010%	10
25	Costa Rica	0.016	0.025%	25
26	Cote d'Ivoire	0.009	0.010%	10
27	Croatia	0.030	0.046%	47
28	Cuba	0.024	0.037%	38
29	Cyprus	0.034	0.052%	54
30	Czech Republic	0.107	0.165%	169
31	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.007	0.010%	10

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
32	Djibouti	0.001	0.010%	10
33	Dominica	0.001	0.010%	10
34	Egypt	0.065	0.100%	103
35	Equatorial Guinea	0.001	0.010%	10
36	Fiji	0.004	0.010%	10
37	Finland	0.543	0.836%	856
38	France	6.545	10.072%	10,321
39	Gabon	0.015	0.023%	24
40	Gambia	0.001	0.010%	10
41	Georgia	0.007	0.010%	10
42	Germany	9.857	15.168%	15,544
43	Ghana	0.007	0.010%	10
44	Greece	0.351	0.540%	554
45	Grenada	0.001	0.010%	10
46	Guatemala	0.018	0.028%	28
47	Guinea	0.003	0.010%	10
48	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.010%	10
49	Guyana	0.001	0.010%	10
50	Haiti	0.002	0.010%	10
51	Honduras	0.003	0.010%	10
52	Iceland	0.032	0.049%	50
53	India	0.299	0.460%	472
54	Indonesia	0.188	0.289%	296
55	Iraq	0.032	0.049%	50
56	Ireland	0.224	0.345%	353
57	Italy	5.437	8.367%	8,574
58	Jamaica	0.006	0.010%	10
59	Japan	20.573	25.000%	25,619
60	Jordan	0.006	0.010%	10
61	Kenya	0.007	0.010%	10
62	Kuwait	0.128	0.197%	202
63	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.010%	10
64	Lebanon	0.016	0.025%	25
65	Malaysia	0.183	0.282%	289
66	Mali	0.002	0.010%	10
67	Malta	0.014	0.022%	22

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
68	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010%	10
69	Mauritania	0.001	0.010%	10
70	Mauritius	0.009	0.010%	10
71	Mexico	0.995	1.531%	1,569
72	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.010%	10
73	Monaco	0.004	0.010%	10
74	Mongolia	0.002	0.010%	10
75	Mozambique	0.001	0.010%	10
76	Myanmar	0.008	0.010%	10
77	Namibia	0.007	0.010%	10
78	Nauru	0.001	0.010%	10
79	Nepal	0.004	0.010%	10
80	Netherlands	1.632	2.511%	2,574
81	New Zealand	0.221	0.340%	349
82	Nicaragua	0.001	0.010%	10
83	Nigeria	0.032	0.049%	50
84	Norway	0.610	0.939%	962
85	Oman	0.051	0.078%	80
86	Pakistan	0.059	0.091%	93
87	Palau	0.001	0.010%	10
88	Panama	0.013	0.020%	21
89	Papua New Guinea	0.007	0.010%	10
90	Paraguay	0.014	0.022%	22
91	Philippines	0.081	0.125%	128
92	Poland	0.196	0.302%	309
93	Portugal	0.431	0.663%	680
94	Republic of Korea	1.006	1.548%	1,586
95	Romania	0.056	0.086%	88
96	Russian Federation	1.077	1.657%	1,698
97	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.010%	10
98	Saint Lucia	0.001	0.010%	10
99	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.010%	10
100	Samoa	0.001	0.010%	10
101	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.010%	10
102	Saudi Arabia	0.562	0.865%	886
103	Senegal	0.006	0.010%	10

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
104	Seychelles	0.002	0.010%	10
105	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.010%	10
106	Singapore	0.179	0.275%	282
107	Slovakia	0.035	0.054%	55
108	Slovenia	0.061	0.094%	96
109	Solomon Islands	0.001	0.010%	10
110	Somalia	0.001	0.010%	10
111	South Africa	0.366	0.563%	577
112	Spain	2.591	3.987%	4,086
113	Sri Lanka	0.012	0.018%	19
114	Sudan	0.007	0.010%	10
115	Suriname	0.004	0.010%	10
116	Sweden	1.079	1.660%	1,702
117	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.004	0.010%	10
118	Togo	0.001	0.010%	10
119	Tonga	0.001	0.010%	10
120	Trinidad and Tobago	0.016	0.025%	25
121	Tunisia	0.028	0.043%	44
122	Uganda	0.004	0.010%	10
123	Ukraine	0.190	0.292%	300
124	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.092	7.836%	8,030
125	United Republic of Tanzania	0.003	0.010%	10
126	Uruguay	0.048	0.074%	76
127	Vanuatu . b/	0.001	0.010%	10
128	Viet Nam	0.007	0.010%	10
129	Yemen	0.010	0.010%	10
130	Yugoslavia	0.026	0.040%	41
131	Zambia	0.002	0.010%	10
132	Zimbabwe	0.009	0.010%	10
		69.123	100.000%	102,475
	<u>International organizations in accordance with annex IX</u>			
133	European Community c/			2,160

	Country	United Nations percentage scale assessment	Authority's adjusted percentage scale of assessment	Amount US\$
			Total	104,635

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- a/ 1998-1999-2000 assessment rate as contained in A/52/215 of 20 Jan.1998
 - b/ Rate recommended by the Council.
 - c/ Proportionate rate based on an \$8,000 assessment when the Working Capital Fund was established in 1997 at the level of \$392,000 (ISBA/3/A/9&10)



Asamblea

Distr. limitada
12 de julio de 2000
Español
Original: inglés

Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos

Continuación del sexto período de sesiones
3 a 14 de julio de 2000

Proyecto de decisión de la Asamblea de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos relativa a las elecciones para llenar las vacantes en el Consejo con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el párrafo 3 del artículo 161 de la Convención

La Asamblea de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos,

Recordando que, de conformidad con lo dispuesto en el párrafo 3 del artículo 161 de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar,

“Las elecciones se celebrarán en los períodos ordinarios de sesiones de la Asamblea. El mandato de cada miembro del Consejo durará cuatro años.”

Elige a los siguientes Estados para llenar las vacantes en el Consejo por un período de cuatro años a partir del 1º de enero de 2001, con sujeción a los entendimientos alcanzados en el ámbito de los grupos regionales y de interés¹:

Grupo A

Japón
Reino Unido²

Grupo B

China
India

Grupo C

Portugal
Sudáfrica³

Grupo D⁴

Brasil
Papua Nueva Guinea
Sudán

Grupo E

Argelia
Argentina
España
Gabón⁵
Guyana
Malta
Namibia
Polonia
República Checa
Senegal
Trinidad y Tabago

Notas

- ¹ De acuerdo con lo convenido, la distribución de los escaños en el Consejo es la siguiente: 10 escaños para el Grupo de Estados de África, 9 escaños para el Grupo de Estados de Asia, 8 escaños para el Grupo de Estados de Europa Occidental y otros Estados, 7 escaños para el Grupo de Estados de América Latina y el Caribe y 3 escaños para el grupo de Estados de Europa Oriental. Dado que el número total de escaños distribuidos según esa fórmula es de 37, se entiende que, para el período comprendido entre 2001 y 2004, cada grupo regional, salvo el Grupo de Estados de Europa Oriental, renunciará a un escaño de acuerdo con la siguiente rotación:
- a) En el primer año (2001), Guyana renunciará a su escaño en el Grupo E en nombre del Grupo de Estados de América Latina y el Caribe, que ocupará 6 escaños en ese año;
 - b) En el segundo año (2002), Malta renunciará a su escaño en el Grupo E en nombre del Grupo de los Estados de Europa Occidental y otros Estados, que ocupará 7 escaños en ese año;
 - c) En el tercer año (2003), Argelia renunciará a su escaño en el Grupo E en nombre del Grupo de Estados de África, que ocupará 9 escaños en ese año; y
 - d) En el cuarto año (2004), el Grupo de Estados de Asia ocupará 8 escaños. El Grupo de Estados de Asia nombrará en 2002 al miembro que renunciará a su escaño en 2004.
- ² El Reino Unido es elegido para un período de cuatro años, pero después de dos años puede renunciar a su escaño en favor de Francia, si así se solicita.
- ³ Sudáfrica renunciará a su escaño en el Grupo C en favor de Zambia, que lo ocupará en 2003, y de Gabón, que lo ocupará en 2004. Después de 2004 se celebrarán elecciones para ocupar ese escaño, que podrá ser ocupado por cualquier Estado elegible para representar al Grupo C en el Consejo.
- ⁴ Egipto fue elegido en 1998 para un período de cuatro años, en el entendimiento de que renunciaría a su escaño a fines de 2000. Sin embargo, Egipto continuará ocupando su escaño en el Grupo D durante el resto de su período de cuatro años, que expira el 31 de diciembre de 2002.
- ⁵ El Gabón será miembro del Consejo en representación del Grupo E para el período comprendido entre 2001 y 2003. En 2004, el Gabón ocupará el escaño correspondiente en el Grupo C.

14 July 2000

**COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY**

Prepared by the secretariat

**I. UNOFFICIAL CHART SHOWING THE
COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL 2001 – 2004^a**

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Group A (4 members)						
Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan		
Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation				
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom ^b	France	France		
Italy	Italy	Italy ^c				
Group B (4 members)						
China	China	China	China	China		
India	India	India	India	India		
Germany	Germany	Germany				
Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands				
Group C (4 members)						
Australia	Australia	Australia ^d				
Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia				
South Africa	South Africa	South Africa ^e	Zambia	Gabon		
Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal		
Group D (6 members)						
Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil		
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea		
Egypt	Egypt	Egypt ^f				
Fiji	Fiji	Fiji				
Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica				
Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan	Sudan		
Group E (18 members)^g						
Nigeria	Nigeria	Nigeria				
Cameroon	Cameroon	Cameroon				
Tunisia	Tunisia	Tunisia				
Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria		
Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia	Namibia		
Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal	Senegal		
Gabon	Gabon	Gabon	Gabon ^h			
Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan				
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia				
Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea				
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic		
Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland	Poland		
Paraguay	Paraguay	Paraguay				
Chile	Chile	Chile				
Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina		
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago		
Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana	Guyana		
Malta	Malta	Malta	Malta	Malta		
Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain		

Notes

^a The terms of office of the members of the Council are based on a calendar year (ISBA/4/A/5)

^b Italy was elected as a member of the Council in Group A on 13 August 1999. Italy will relinquish its seat in favour of the United States of America if the United States becomes a member of the Authority. This does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to any intervening election (ISBA/5/A/7*).

^c United Kingdom is elected for a four-year term but may relinquish its seat in favour of France after two years if so requested.

^d Australia was elected as a member of the Council in Group C on 13 August 1999. Group C is consulting with regard to the further implications of this decision, including the possibility of Canada becoming a member of the Council (ISBA/5/A/7*).

^e South Africa will relinquish its seat in Group C to Zambia in 2003 and Gabon in 2004. After 2004, the seat would be open for election to any State eligible to represent Group C on the Council.

^f Egypt was elected in 1998 for a four-year term on the understanding that it would relinquish its seat at the end of 2000. However, Egypt will continue to occupy its seat in Group D for the remainder of its four-year term, expiring on 31 December 2002.

^g The agreed allocation of seats on the Council is 10 seats 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 is understood that for the period 2001 to 2004 each regional group other than the Eastern European Group will relinquish a seat in rotation as follows:

(a) in the first year (2001), Guyana will relinquish its seat in Group E on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, which will occupy six seats in that year;

(b) in the second year (2002), Malta will relinquish its seat in Group E on behalf of the Western European and Others Group, which will occupy seven seats in that year;

(c) in the third year (2003), Algeria will relinquish its seat in Group E on behalf of the African Group, which will occupy nine seats in that year; and

(d) in the fourth year (2004), the Asian Group will occupy eight seats. The Asian Group will nominate the member which will relinquish a seat in 2004 in 2002.

^b Gabon will serve as a member of the Council in Group E for the period 2001 to 2003. In 2004, Gabon will occupy the seat in Group C.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL BY REGIONAL GROUP IN 2001

Africa (10)

Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

Asia (9)

China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia

GRULAC (7)

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana

WEOG (8)

Australia, Germany, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

Eastern Europe (3)

Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation

III. SCHEDULE OF SEAT RELINQUISHMENT 2001 – 2004

2001	GRULAC	Guyana
2002	WEOG	Malta
2003	Africa	Algeria
2004	Asia	To be nominated in 2002