



## Council

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### **Draft decision of the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,*

*Noting that, on 23 May 2012, an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area was submitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER), sponsored by France,<sup>1</sup>*

*Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,<sup>2</sup> the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,*

*Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention<sup>3</sup> and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,*

*Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,*

1. *Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission on the request for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by IFREMER transmitted to the Council,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraphs 26 to 29 thereof;*

<sup>1</sup> ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>4</sup> ISBA/18/C/16.



2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by IFREMER;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the form of a contract between the Authority and IFREMER in accordance with the Regulations.

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