



## Council

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### **Draft decision of the Council relating to a request for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

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

*Noting* that, on 31 May 2012, a request for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules was submitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area<sup>1</sup> by G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV, sponsored by Belgium,

*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 nodules submitted by G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV transmitted to the Council,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraphs 30 to 33 thereof;

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/6/A/18, 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/19.



2. *Decides*, on the basis of the data and information submitted by G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV, and taking into account the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, to designate part A of the application area as identified in the annex to the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission as the area reserved for the Authority;

3. *Also decides*, taking into account the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, to allocate part B of the application area as identified in the annex to the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV as the exploration area;

4. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the form of a contract between the Authority and G-TEC Sea Mineral Resources NV in accordance with the Regulations.

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