



Council

Distr.: General
21 July 2011

Original: English

Seventeenth session

Kingston, Jamaica

11-22 July 2011

Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking note of the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at its seventeenth session (ISBA/17/C/13), in particular the evaluation of the annual reports of the contractors submitted pursuant to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area (Nodules Regulations) and the information on the periodic review of implementation of plans of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules,

Noting the concern of the Commission that there is still a lack of raw data associated with resource assessment and environmental baseline studies,

Emphasizing the need for recommendations for the guidance of the contractors for the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area,

1. *Calls upon* all contractors to provide raw data in digital format for inclusion in the database of the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with regulation 31, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Nodules Regulations and with regulation 34 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area (Sulphides Regulations);

2. *Stresses* the importance of the role of the Commission, as provided for in regulation 21, paragraph 3 (d), of the Nodules Regulations and in regulation 23, paragraph 3 (d), of the Sulphides Regulations, to ensure that an applicant for a new plan of work for exploration has satisfactorily discharged its obligations in relation to any previous contract with the Authority, including in relation to environmental reporting, and supports the Commission in continuing to fulfil its role in this regard;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of the Authority with respect to the activities in the Area, and invites, for this purpose, sponsoring States and other members of the Authority, as appropriate,

to provide information on, or texts of, relevant national laws, regulations and administrative measures to the secretariat;

4. *Requests* the Commission to analyse regulation 11.2 of the Nodules Regulations and regulation 11.2 of the Sulphides Regulations, and to report thereon to the Council for its consideration.
