



Council

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Decision of the Council relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 6 February 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation submitted to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area, in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area,¹

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 1982,² the processing of an application for the 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 Convention³ 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 relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for

¹ ISBA/18/A/11.

² General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation transmitted to the Council,⁴ in particular paragraphs 29 to 33 thereof;

2. *Decides*, on the basis of the data and information submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, and taking into account the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, to designate area 1 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 area 2 of the application area as identified in the annex to the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation as the exploration area;

4. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the form of a contract between the Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area.¹

*199th meeting
21 July 2014*

⁴ ISBA/20/C/4.