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**Council**

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Resumed second session  
Kingston, Jamaica  
5-16 August 1996

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL  
DURING THE RESUMED SECOND SESSION

1. The second part of the second session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 16 August 1996. Among the matters to be considered by the Council during this part of the session were the adoption of the draft rules of procedure, the election of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission, the question of provisional membership of the Authority and a number of administrative and technical issues relating to the establishment of the Authority as an autonomous international organization. The most urgent matter for the Council to consider, however, was the election of its first President.

Election of a President of the Council

2. At the 1st meeting, the Assembly requested that, in addition to presiding over the work of the Assembly until the election of a new President of the Assembly, I continue to act as President Pro Tem of the Council until the election of the first President of the Council. Two candidates were nominated for the position of President of the Council by their respective regional groups; Mr. Lennox Ballah (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mr. Joachim Koch (Germany). After holding consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, I found that both candidates continued to maintain their candidatures. Accordingly, I proposed that an informal meeting of all members of the Council be convened for the purpose of holding a secret indicative vote to assist the candidates in determining their relative support.

3. During the informal meeting convened on 14 August 1996, which was attended by all members of the Council, an indicative vote on the two candidates was held by secret ballot. The ballot papers were counted in the presence of the two candidates. At a further informal meeting, on 15 August, after discussion with their respective regional groups, the two candidates agreed to recommend to the

Council the election of Mr. Ballah by acclamation. The Council then elected Mr. Ballah by acclamation.

4. During the first week of this part of the second session, the Council appointed a working group to review the draft rules of procedure of the Council (ISBA/C/WP.1). Mr. Mohamed Mouldi Marsit (Tunisia) was appointed Chairman of the Working Group.

5. The following items were considered under the presidency of Mr. Ballah.

#### Rules of procedure of the Council

6. The Working Group on the rules of procedure held seven meetings and submitted for the consideration of the Council a revised version of the rules of procedure (ISBA/C/WP.1/Rev.1). After consideration of the report of the Working Group the Council, at its 9th meeting, on 16 August 1996, adopted the rules of procedure with minor amendments.

#### Election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission

7. As at 15 August 1996, 22 nominations had been submitted for membership in the Legal and Technical Commission. At its 8th meeting, the Council agreed to increase the number of seats on the Commission from 15 to 22, having regard to the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 163 of the Convention, but without prejudice to future elections to the Commission. Accordingly, the Council elected the 22 candidates as members of the Commission. The members of the Legal and Technical Commission are: Hans Amann (Germany), Samuel Sona Betah (Cameroon), Arne BJORLYKKE (Norway), José de J. Conejo (Costa Rica), Ivan F. Glumov (Russian Federation), Robert Guehi (Côte d'Ivoire), Waguihi Hanafi (Egypt), Jung-Keuk Kang (Republic of Korea), Ryszard Kotlinski (Poland), Jean-Pierre Lenoble (France), Yuwei Li (China), Charles Lowell Morgan (United States of America), Marcellin Mve-Ebang (Gabon), Luis Giotto Preval Paez (Cuba), H. P. Rajan (India), Giovanni Rosa (Italy), Toshio Sakasegawa (Japan), Olexander A. Shchypstov (Ukraine), H. Shimutwikeneni (Namibia), Alfred Simpson (Fiji), George P. Stewart (Bahamas) and Boris Winterhalter (Finland).

#### Extension of provisional membership of the Authority

8. In relation to the extension of provisional membership beyond 16 November 1996, at its 7th meeting, on 15 August 1996, at the suggestion of the President, the Council decided that those States or entities that submit requests for an extension of membership beyond 16 November 1996 prior to the next session of the Council shall be deemed to be members of the Authority on a provisional basis until the end of the next session of the Council, at which time the Council will deliberate on such requests. In accordance with subparagraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the Annex to the Implementing Agreement, and on the basis of requests submitted to the Council, the Council decided to extend the membership of the Authority, on a provisional basis, of Bangladesh, Nepal, Poland and the United States of America for a period of two years as from 16 November 1996, and of Canada, as requested, for a period of one year as from 16 November 1996.

Budget of the Authority for 1997

9. The Council considered a proposed revised budget for the Authority for 1997 as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/C/5/Add.1-ISBA/A/9/Add.1). In reviewing the proposed revised budget, the Council took into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee as contained in its report of 14 August 1996 (ISBA/A/12-ISBA/C/7). The Council decided by consensus to recommend to the Assembly that it approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee and adopt the revised budget of the Authority for 1997 in the sum of US\$ 4,150,500, subject to the points raised by the Finance Committee in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report of the Finance Committee. The Council endorsed the evolutionary approach set out in the Secretary-General's report. It noted the reservations expressed in respect of certain aspects of the budget by the Russian Federation, members of the Council from the Eastern European Group and the United States of America.

Administrative and technical matters

10. The Council recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to apply on behalf of the Authority for membership of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

11. The Council requested the Secretary-General to negotiate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a relationship agreement between the Authority and the United Nations (ISBA/C/L.1). It also requested the Secretary-General to negotiate with the Government of Jamaica an agreement regarding the headquarters of the Authority (ISBA/C/L.2).

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