

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Council



Distr.
GENERAL

ISBA/6/C/12
13 July 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
Resumed sixth session
Kingston, Jamaica
3-14 July 2000

DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
RELATING TO THE REGULATIONS ON PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION
FOR POLYMETALLIC NODULES IN THE AREA

PART I

The Council of the International Seabed Authority

1. Decides to adopt the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area, as contained in documents ISBA/6/C/8 and ISBA/6/C/8/Corr.1, dated 12 and 13 July 2000, respectively;
2. Further decides to apply the regulations provisionally, pending their approval by the Assembly of the Authority.

PART II

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the need to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise at the phase of testing of collecting systems and processing operations,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring compliance with emergency orders issued by the Council pursuant to article 162, paragraph (2) (w), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Recalling, in this context, the concerns expressed during the elaboration by the Council of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area concerning the need for appropriate forms of guarantee to enable the Council to take immediately the necessary measures to implement an emergency order in the event of failure or inability on the part of a contractor to comply with such orders,

1. Decides to consider the matter of such a guarantee prior to the phase of testing of collecting systems and processing operations for the exploitation of polymetallic nodules with a view to adopting appropriate forms

of guarantee to ensure compliance with emergency orders and the effective protection of the marine environment in accordance with article 145 and other relevant provisions of the Convention; and

2. Requests the secretariat to carry out studies of appropriate instruments or arrangements which may be available for this purpose and to report to the Council on the outcome of such studies prior to consideration of the matter pursuant to paragraph 1.
