



Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2021

Original: English

Twenty-sixth session

Council session, part II

Kingston, 6–10 December 2021*

Agenda item 10bis

Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extensions of contracts for exploration

Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer for extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer and the Authority

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,¹

Recalling that, on 20 June 2001, the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the Authority,

Recalling also that the contract was extended for a period of five years to 19 June 2021,²

Noting that, on 17 December 2020, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received an application for a five-year extension of the contract,

Recalling section 1, paragraph 9, 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 1982,³

Recalling also the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, 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 1982,⁴

* New dates of the in-person meetings originally scheduled for July 2020 and then July 2021.

¹ See [ISBA/26/C/36](#).

² See [ISBA/22/C/26](#).

³ See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

⁴ [ISBA/21/C/19](#).



Considering the report and recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer for extension of the contract,⁵

1. *Decides* to approve the application for extension of the contract;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 20 June 2021, by signature of an agreement in the form set out in appendix II to the annex to the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority mentioned above;⁶
3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next session on the status of the extension agreement.

*266th meeting
6 December 2021*

⁵ [ISBA/26/C/36](#).

⁶ See [ISBA/21/C/19](#).