



Council

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration, with a view to approval, of an application
for extension of a contract for exploration**

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application by the Government of India for extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the Government of India and the Authority

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

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

Recalling that, on 25 March 2002, the Government of India 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 24 March 2022,²

Noting that, on 20 October 2021, 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,⁴

Considering the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by the Government of India for extension of the contract,⁵

* ISBA/27/C/L.1.

¹ ISBA/27/C/15.

² See ISBA/23/C/15.

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

⁴ ISBA/21/C/19.

⁵ ISBA/27/C/15.



1. *Decides* to approve the application for extension of the contract;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 25 March 2022, 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.

⁶ [ISBA/21/C/19](#).