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Specification of scale and projection for the purposes of the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority

Note by the Secretariat

1.   The rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority require that applicants for plans of work for exploration and contractors with the Authority submit from time to time charts and lists of geographical coordinates. For example, the Regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area[1] and the Regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area[2] both require that applicants for plans of work for exploration define the boundaries of the area under application by attaching a list of geographical coordinates and that they attach a chart showing the area concerned. While the Regulations state that geographical coordinates are to be submitted in accordance with the World Geodetic System 84 (WGS 84), charts are to be submitted "on a scale and projection specified by the Authority".

2.   A number of applicants and potential applicants have requested the advice of the Secretariat as to the projection method to be used for the calculation of the exploration area under application and it is therefore desirable to give due publicity to the Authority's technical requirements. This is not expected to be controversial, as, thus far, all contractors have used this format.

3.   The purpose of the present note is to invite the Legal and Technical Commission, as well as contractors with the Authority and potential applicants, to note that, for the purpose of the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, the projection specified by the Authority is the Universal Transverse Mercator grid in combination with the WGS 84 ellipsoid. Coordinates and supporting data should be submitted in hard copy and electronic format, if possible, and should include relevant GIS data.

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[1] Adopted on 13 July 2000 and contained in ISBA/6/A/18.
[2] Adopted on 7 May 2010 and contained in ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1.

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