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Agenda item 14

Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at its twenty-seventh session

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to a standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans in the Area

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission pursuant to article 165, paragraph 2 (e), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,¹

Recalling article 145 of the Convention, which requires that necessary measures shall be taken in accordance with the Convention with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 162 of the Convention, the Council has the power to establish the specific policies to be pursued by the Authority on any question or matter within the competence of the Authority,

Considering that regional environmental management plans are essential tools to ensure effective protection of the marine environment in accordance with article 145 of the Convention, as also reflected in the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023² and the high-level action plan,³

Recalling its decision concerning a standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans in the Area, including a template with indicative elements,⁴

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

² [ISBA/24/A/10](#), annex.

³ [ISBA/25/A/15](#) and [ISBA/25/A/15/Corr.1](#), annex II.

⁴ [ISBA/26/C/10](#).



Reaffirming that it is essential that regional environmental management plans be developed in a transparent manner, following a coherent, science-based and coordinated approach, under the auspices of the Authority,

Taking note of the guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans developed by the Legal and Technical Commission, drawing on the proposed template and procedure as contained in documents [ISBA/26/C/6](#) and [ISBA/26/C/7](#) as well as on existing practices of the Authority,⁵

1. *Adopts* the standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans, including a template with indicative elements, as contained in the annex and in the appendix to document [ISBA/27/C/37](#);

2. *Encourages* the expansion of strategic partnerships with relevant organizations and researchers and broad participation in the implementation of the standardized approach;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the present decision to members of the Authority, observers to the Authority, contractors, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

⁵ [ISBA/27/C/37](#).