



## Council

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Agenda item 9

**Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for a plan of work for exploration, if any**

### **Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,*

*Noting that, on 24 December 2018, an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules was submitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area<sup>1</sup> by the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation, sponsored by China,*

*Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 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,<sup>2</sup> the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,<sup>3</sup> including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,*

*Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,*

*Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,*

1. *Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work*

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/19/C/17, annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



for exploration for polymetallic nodules by the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraphs 35 to 40 thereof;

2. *Decides*, on the basis of the data and information submitted by the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation, and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, to designate part B of the application area, as identified in the annexes to the report and recommendations of the Commission, as the area reserved for the Authority;

3. *Also decides*, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, to allocate part A of the application area, as identified in the annexes to the report and recommendations of the Commission, to the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation as the exploration area;

4. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation;

5. *Requests* that the Secretary-General of the Authority issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the form of a contract between the Authority and the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation in accordance with the regulations.

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<sup>4</sup> ISBA/25/C/30.