



Secretariat

8 August 2017

Original: English

Secretary-General's Bulletin

To: Members of the Staff

From: The Secretary-General

Subject: **Establishment of the voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority from developing States in the meetings of the Council**

1. The purpose of the present bulletin is to establish, pursuant to the Financial Regulations of the International Seabed Authority, a voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council of the Authority from developing States in the second annual meeting of the Council, and to establish, on a provisional basis, the terms of reference for the administration of the fund.

I. Object and purpose of the trust fund

2. In its decision [ISBA/23/A/13](#) dated 18 August 2017 relating to the final report on the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council from developing States in the second annual meeting of the Council.

3. The objective of the fund is to defray the cost of participation of members of the Council from developing States in the second of its two annual meetings scheduled for 2018 and 2019, respectively.¹

II. Establishment

4. The fund is established pursuant to financial regulation 5.5 and shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Authority, as provided in financial regulation 5.6.

III. Contributions to the fund

5. Member States, observers and other stakeholders are encouraged to contribute financially to the voluntary trust fund. Other stakeholders may include, but are not limited to: other States; contractors with the Authority; relevant international

¹ See ISBA/23/A/5/Rev.1, annexes I and II.



organizations; academic, scientific and technical institutions; philanthropic organizations; corporations and private individuals; and non-governmental organizations.

IV. Implementing office

6. The Office for Administrative Service of the Secretariat is the implementing office for the fund and provides the services for its operation.

V. Report on the status of the fund

7. The Secretary-General shall report annually to the Finance Committee for its review of the use and status of the fund. The Secretary-General shall also report annually to the Assembly on the status of the fund.

VI. Terms of reference for the administration of the fund

8. The fund may be used to support the participation of one member of the delegation of a developing State member of the Council in the second annual meeting of the Council, subject to the following conditions:

(a) A formal request by the Government of the State, containing the name of the delegate to be supported, must be communicated to the Secretariat no later than three months prior to the opening of the second meeting of the Council. Late requests shall not be considered;

(b) Only members of the Council from developing States are eligible for support from the fund. However, in the event that the amount available in the fund is not sufficient to meet all requests for support, priority shall be given to members of the Council from least developed countries. A list of eligible States based on the composition of the Council for 2018 is attached in the annex to the present bulletin;

(c) The fund shall be used for the second annual meeting only, as normally scheduled in July/August;

(d) For each member of the Council, only one delegate may benefit from support from the fund;

(e) Support shall be limited to economy class airfare by the most economical and direct route from either the capital or the official place of posting and to a daily subsistence allowance for up to a maximum of five days;

(f) The Secretary-General should inform the Government concerned of the outcome of the request in a timely manner.

9. The present terms of reference are provisional and shall be submitted to the Finance Committee for review at its meeting in 2018.²

² The schedule of meetings of the Authority in July 2018 is as follows: 2–6 July for the Finance Committee; 2–13 July for the Legal and Technical Commission; 16–20 July for the Council; and 23–27 July for the Assembly.

Annex**Developing States members of the Council in 2018**

Algeria	China	Jamaica	Singapore
Argentina	Côte d'Ivoire	Lesotho	South Africa
Bangladesh	Fiji	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Brazil	Ghana	Morocco	Tonga
Cameroon	India	Nigeria	Uganda
Chile	Indonesia	Panama	

Least developed countries members of the Council in 2018

Bangladesh	Lesotho	Uganda
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