



Assembly

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the strategic plan of the International
Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023**

Consideration, with a view to adoption, of the draft high-level action plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its twenty-fourth session, the Assembly adopted the strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023 ([ISBA/24/A/10](#)). This five-year plan embodies the commitment of the members of the Authority to ensuring the fulfilment of the Authority's mandate and responsibilities in a uniform manner and on a global scale.
2. As the next step in the development of the strategic plan, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to prepare a high-level action plan and to include key performance indicators and a list of outputs for the period 2019–2023, taking into account available financial and human resources ([ISBA/24/A/10](#), para. 3).
3. Following the adoption of decision [ISBA/24/A/10](#), the secretariat undertook preparatory work and, in May 2019, launched a one-month public consultation on the draft performance indicators that had been developed and on the draft high-level action plan. As a result, the secretariat received comments from 11 member States and two observers, which have been taken into account in the preparation of a revised version of the drafts. The revised draft high-level action plan is contained in document [ISBA/25/A/L.2](#), while the revised draft performance indicators, together with an explanation of how they have been developed, are contained in document [ISBA/25/A/5](#).
4. The actions necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the strategic plan and the relating priorities for the period 2019–2023 are identified in the draft high-level action plan. The high-level action plan establishes a link between the strategic plan and day-to-day operations, and thus constitutes the work programme of the Authority and the basis for its biennial budget.
5. The draft performance indicators set out in document [ISBA/25/A/5](#) relate to the priorities of the Authority against each of the strategic directions. Each performance

* [ISBA/25/A/L.1/Rev.1](#).



indicator has been conceived as a tool enabling the monitoring and measurement of the implementation of the strategic plan throughout its five-year span.

6. To implement the strategic plan, the secretariat will also need to develop a business plan, which will provide a link between its work, the strategic plan and the results-based budget of the Authority. Together with the list of outputs included in the high-level action plan, the business plan will form the basis for the budgetary requirements of the Authority.

7. Reporting on the implementation of the strategic plan and the high-level action plan is critical to measuring their effectiveness and the performance of the Authority. The secretariat will submit reports on the status of outputs included in the high-level action plan at each session of the Assembly and will identify therein new outputs accepted by each relevant organ. The progress of the Authority towards fulfilling its aims and objectives will be monitored against the planned outputs for the biennium.

8. The Assembly is invited to consider, with a view to adoption, the draft high-level action plan contained in document [ISBA/25/A/L.2](#), the performance indicators contained in document [ISBA/25/A/5](#) and the related draft decision provided in the annex to the present document.

Annex

Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of the strategic plan for the Authority for the period 2019–2023

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling its decision to adopt the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 at its twenty-fourth session,¹

Recalling also that, in the same decision, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to prepare a high-level action plan to include key performance indicators and a list of outputs for the period 2019–2023, taking into account available financial and human resources, for consideration by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session,

Recalling further that, in the same decision, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to provide it with a detailed overview of the implementation mechanisms to be established, including for monitoring, evaluation and learning,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General² in which he provided the required information on the modalities for the implementation of the strategic plan and the high-level action plan,

Considering that the high-level action plan identifies the actions necessary to achieve the objectives in the strategic plan, as well as the priorities for the period 2019–2023, in relation to the actions required of the Authority to realize its mission objectives,

Committed to the strengthening of existing working practices of the Authority,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the performance of the Authority towards achieving the strategic directions set out in the strategic plan is assessed on a regular manner and that the results are monitored for effectiveness,

1. *Adopts* the performance indicators developed for each priority of the Authority against each of the strategic directions in the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 as set out in annex I³ to the present decision;

2. *Also adopts* the high-level action plan of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023, as provided in annex II⁴ to the present decision;

3. *Invites* members of the Authority and observers, as well as the organs of the Authority, to support the implementation of the strategic plan and the high-level action plan;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take into consideration the list of performance indicators and outputs when developing the business plan of the secretariat for the period 2019–2023;

5. *Requests* that the Secretary-General, as appropriate, monitor and analyse progress and, as necessary, establish any mechanisms required to review and provide an update on progress made under the strategic plan;

¹ ISBA/24/A/10.

² ISBA/25/A/5 and ISBA/25/A/6.

³ See ISBA/25/A/5.

⁴ See ISBA/25/A/L.2.

6. *Also requests* that the Secretary-General prepare guidance on the format and content of reports for monitoring progress in the implementation of the strategic plan and high-level action plan and the achievement of identified outputs;

7. *Invites* member States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the data necessary to ensure accurate reporting on progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan and the high-level action plan and the achievement of identified outputs.
