

**No. 44661**

---

**Jamaica  
and  
International Seabed Authority**

**Agreement between the International Seabed Authority and the Government of Jamaica regarding the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority. Kingston, 26 August 1999**

**Entry into force:** *provisionally on 26 August 1999 by signature, in accordance with article 54*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Jamaica, 9 January 2008*

---

**Jamaïque  
et  
Autorité internationale des fonds marins**

**Accord entre l'Autorité internationale des fonds marins et le Gouvernement de la Jamaïque relatif au Siège de l'Autorité internationale des fonds marins. Kingston, 26 août 1999**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *provisoirement le 26 août 1999 par signature, conformément à l'article 54*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Jamaïque, 9 janvier 2008*

[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED  
AUTHORITY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA  
REGARDING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

The International Seabed Authority and the Government of Jamaica,

Having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, which establishes the International Seabed Authority;

Taking into account article 156, paragraph 4, of the Convention, which provides that the seat of the International Seabed Authority shall be in Jamaica;

Recognizing the need to ensure the availability of all necessary facilities to enable the International Seabed Authority to perform its functions as required by the Convention;

Desiring to conclude an agreement for the purpose of regulating, in accordance with the Convention, questions relating to the establishment and functioning of the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Use of terms

For the purposes of this Agreement:

(a) “archives” includes records and correspondence, documents, manuscripts, maps, still and moving pictures, films, computer-based communications and sound recordings belonging to or held by the Authority in Jamaica;

(b) “Authority” means the International Seabed Authority as defined in the Convention;

(c) “competent authorities” means such government, municipal or other authorities in Jamaica as may be appropriate in the context and in accordance with the laws applicable in Jamaica;

- (d) “Convention” means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 together with the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982;
- (e) “Director-General” means the Director-General of the Enterprise;
- (f) “domestic staff” means the persons employed exclusively in the domestic service of the representatives of members of the Authority, of the representatives of observers of the Authority and the officials of the Authority;
- (g) “Enterprise” means the organ of the Authority as provided for in the Convention;
- (h) “experts” means experts performing missions for the Authority;
- (i) “Government” means the Government of Jamaica;
- (j) “Headquarters” means the area occupied by the Authority in Jamaica, as specified in article 2;
- (k) “laws of Jamaica” means the Constitution of Jamaica, statute law and regulations made pursuant to statutes and includes common law;
- (l) “members of the Authority” means all States Parties to the Convention;
- (m) “members of the permanent mission” or “members of the permanent observer mission” means the head of the mission and the members of the staff;
- (n) “observer State” means a State which enjoys observer status with the Authority;
- (o) “observers of the Authority” means States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which enjoy such status with the Authority;
- (p) “officials of the Authority” means the Secretary-General and all members of the staff of the Authority, except those who are locally recruited and assigned to hourly rates;

(q) “permanent mission” means a mission of permanent character, representing a member of the Authority;

(r) “permanent observer mission” means a mission of permanent character, representing an observer State;

(s) “Protocol” means the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;

(t) “representatives of members of the Authority” means delegates, deputy delegates, advisers and any other accredited members of delegations;

(u) “representatives of observer States” means delegates, deputy delegates, advisers and any other accredited members of delegations;

(v) “Secretary-General” means the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority or his authorized representative; and

(w) “States Parties” has the same meaning as defined in article 1 of the Convention.

## Article 2

### The seat of the Authority

1. The seat of the Authority shall be in Jamaica.
2. Jamaica undertakes to grant to the Authority, for the permanent use and occupation by the Authority, such area and facilities as may be specified in supplementary agreements to be concluded for the purpose.
3. Any building or buildings in Jamaica outside the Headquarters which may, with the concurrence of the Government, be temporarily used for meetings convened by the Authority shall be considered as included in the Headquarters. Requests by the Authority requiring the concurrence of the Government shall not be unreasonably withheld.

### Article 3

#### Legal personality and capacity of the Authority

The Authority shall have international legal personality and such legal capacity as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes in accordance with the Convention; consequently it has, in particular, the capacity:

- (a) To contract;
- (b) To acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property; and
- (c) To be a party to legal proceedings.

### Article 4

#### Law and authority in the Headquarters

1. The Headquarters shall be under the authority and control of the Authority in accordance with this Agreement.
2. The Authority shall have the power to adopt regulations, operative within the Headquarters, for the purpose of establishing therein the conditions in all respects necessary for the full and independent exercise of its functions.
3. The Authority shall promptly inform the Government of regulations adopted by it in accordance with paragraph 2.
4. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement and subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 5, the laws of Jamaica shall apply in the Headquarters.
5. No law of Jamaica which is inconsistent with a regulation of the Authority authorized by paragraph 2 shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be applicable in the Headquarters.
6. Any dispute between the Authority and Jamaica as to whether a regulation of the Authority is authorized by paragraph 2, or as to whether a law of Jamaica is inconsistent with any regulation of the Authority authorized by paragraph 2, shall be promptly settled by the procedure set out in article 49. Pending such settlement, the regulation of the Authority shall apply and the law of Jamaica shall be inapplicable in