

fishing and shipping. It entitles coastal states and inhabited islands to proclaim a 200-mile exclusive economic zone or continental shelf (which may be larger). Its 320 Articles and nine Annexes constitute a guide for behaviour by states in the world's oceans, defining maritime zones, laying down rules for drawing sea boundaries, assigning legal rights, duties and responsibilities to States, and providing machinery for the settlement of disputes.

Organization. The Assembly, consisting of representatives from all member states, is the supreme organ. The 36-member Council, elected by the Assembly, includes the four largest importers or consumers of seabed minerals, four largest investors in seabed minerals, four major exporters of the same, six developing countries representing special interests and 18 members from all the geographical regions. The Council is the executive organ of the Authority. There are also two subsidiary bodies: the Legal and Technical Commission (currently 24 experts) and the Finance Committee (currently 15 experts). The Secretariat serves all the bodies of the Authority and under the 1994 Agreement is performing functions of the Enterprise (until such time as it starts to operate independently of the Secretariat). The Enterprise is the organ through which the ISA carries out deep seabed activities directly or through joint ventures.

Activities. In July 2000 the ISA adopted the Regulations for Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area. Pursuant thereto, it signed exploration contracts with seven contractors who have submitted plans of work for deep seabed exploration. These are: Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER) and Association Française pour l'Etude de la Recherche des Nodules (AFERNOD), France; Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd (DORD), Japan; State Enterprise Yuzhmorgeologiya, Russian Federation; China Ocean Minerals Research and Development Association (COMRA); InterOceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM), a consortium sponsored by Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Slovakia; the government of South Korea; and the government of India.

Between 1998 and 2002 the ISA organized five workshops: the development of guidelines for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for polymetallic nodules; proposed technologies for deep seabed mining of polymetallic nodules; the available knowledge on mineral resources other than polymetallic nodules in the deep seabed; a standardized system of data interpretation; prospects for international collaboration in marine environmental research. While continuing to develop a database on polymetallic nodules (POLYDAT), the Authority has also made significant progress towards the establishment of a central data repository for all marine minerals in the deep seabed.

Headquarters: 14–20 Port Royal St., Kingston, Jamaica.

Website: <http://www.isa.org.jm>

Secretary-General: Satya N. Nandan (Fiji Islands).

Publications. Handbook 2005; plus selected decisions and documents from the Authority's sessions; various others.

International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)

Founded in 1964 as Intelsat, the organization was the world's first commercial communications satellite operator. Today, with capacity on a fleet of geostationary satellites and expanding terrestrial network assets, Intelsat continues to provide

connectivity for telephony, corporate network, broadcast and Internet services.

Organization. In 2001 the member states of the organization implemented restructuring by transferring certain assets to Intelsat Ltd, a new Bermuda-based commercial company under the supervision of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, now known as ITSO. The Intelsat Global Service Corporation is located in Washington, D.C., and Intelsat Global Services & Marketing Ltd, the sales arm of the international firm, has its headquarters in London. Intelsat also has offices in Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Hawaii, India, Peru and South Africa. There were 148 member countries in Feb. 2007.

Headquarters: 3400 International Drive, NW, Washington, D.C., 20008–3006, USA.

Website: <http://www.itso.int>

Director-General: Ahmed Toumi (Morocco).

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Origin. Founded in Nov. 2006, the ITUC was formed after the merging of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL). The WCL was established in 1920 as the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, but went briefly out of existence in 1940 owing to the suppression of affiliated unions by the Nazi and Fascist regimes. Declining to merge with the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) or ICFTU, it reconstituted in 1945 and became the WCL in 1968. The founding congress of the ICFTU took place in London in Dec. 1949 following the withdrawal of some Western trade unions from the WFTU, which had come under Communist control.

By Dec. 2006 the newly-created ITUC represented 168m. members of 304 affiliates in 153 countries and territories, consisting of the former affiliates of the WCL and ICFTU and a number of other national organizations.

Aims. The ITUC aims to defend and promote the rights of workers, particularly the right to union organization and collective bargaining; to combat discrimination at work and in society; to ensure that social concerns are put at the centre of global economic, trade and finance policies; to support young people's rights at work; and to promote the involvement of women in trade unions. In 2006 it also ran campaigns against child labour and to promote the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Organization. The Congress meets every four years to set policies and to elect the General Secretary and the General Council, composed of 70 members, which is the main decision-making body between congresses. The President and Deputy Presidents are appointed by the General Council. The Founding Congress was held in Vienna in Nov. 2006. The ITUC works with former ICFTU and WCL Regional Organizations for Africa, the Americas and Asia-Oceania, and aims to unify these organizations by the end of 2007. These structures are responsible for developing local policies and activities as well as supporting the organization's actions at a regional level.

The ITUC has offices which deal with the International Labour Organization (Geneva), the United Nations (New York) and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (Washington, D.C.). There are also offices in Amman, Moscow, Sarajevo and Vilnius. The ITUC is a member of the Global Unions Council and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD.