3. The seat of the Authority shall be at Jamaica.

4. The Authority may establish such regional centres or offices as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

NATURE AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AUTHORITY

Article 21

1. The Authority is the organization through which States Parties shall organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with the view towards the administration of the resources of the Area, in accordance with this Part.

2. The Authority is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all of its members.

3. All members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with this Part.

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RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE

Article 17

1. States parties shall have the responsibility to ensure that activities in the Area, whether undertaken by States parties, or State Enterprises, or persons natural or juridical which possess the nationality of States parties or are effectively controlled by them or their nationals, shall be carried out in conformity with the provisions of this part of the Convention. The same responsibility applies to international organizations for activities in the Area undertaken by such organizations. Without prejudice to applicable principles of international law and paragraph 18 of annex I, damage caused by the failure of a State party to carry out its responsibilities under this part of the Convention shall entail liability. The State party shall not however be liable for damage for any failure to comply by a person whom it has sponsored under article 22, paragraph 1 if the State party has taken all necessary and appropriate measures to secure effective compliance under article 22, paragraph 3.

2. A group of States parties or a group of international organizations, acting together shall be jointly and severally responsible under these articles.

3. States parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the responsibility provided for in paragraph 1 of this article shall apply mutatis mutandis to international organizations.

Article 22

1. The Authority shall avoid discrimination in the exercise of its powers and functions, including the granting of opportunities for activities in the area, except as specifically provided for in this part of the Convention. All rights granted under it shall be fully safeguarded in accordance with the provisions of