

Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

- **In the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea:** (8 countries) Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, the Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles and Singapore.
- **In the Pacific Ocean:** (15 countries) The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- **The AOSIS also has five observers:** American Samoa, Guam, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

7. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization, established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement).**
- The ISA is the organization through which the States Parties to the UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the area for the benefit of the mankind as a whole. In so doing, the ISA has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed related activities.

- The ISA comprises 167 Member States and the European Union. All Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) are the members of the ISA.
- The ISA is mandated as the organization through which the Parties to the UNCLOS shall organize and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area, also known as “the Area.”
- **The international seabed area - the part which is under the ISA jurisdiction - is the seabed and ocean floor, and the sub-soil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.** The international seabed area represents around 50% of the total area of the world’s oceans.

8. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).**
- The GEAC is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of the MoEF & CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- **The Functions of the GEAC:**
 - To appraise the activities involving large scale use of hazardous micro-organisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
 - To appraise the proposals relating to the release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment, including experimental field trials.
 - The Committee or any persons authorized by it has/have the powers to take punitive action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.