

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE REPORT OF THE ART. 154 REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election, as well as the election of the members of the Bureau. I would like to assure you of my delegation's fullest cooperation, and I am sure that under your able leadership, we will be able to complete our work in a timely and efficient manner.

Mr. President,

The report under article 154 will play an important role in determining the way forward for the Authority in the years to come. The interim report offers a detailed analysis of the activities and working methods of the ISA, measured against requirements established by the Convention and other legal instrument, as well as practical circumstances. Against this background, the interim report makes a number of recommendations aimed at further improving the working methods of the Authority and fulfill its mandate.

My delegation welcomes the interim report, and appreciate the work of the consultants and the review committee. We believe the report, when finalised, could form a useful tool for further developing and strengthening the ISA and its subsidiary bodies.

My delegation notes that the report contains a high number of recommendations, 50 in the interim report, and that a good number of these recommendations have a fairly high level of detail. As also pointed out by the chairman of the review committee, Ambassador Helmut Tüerk in his presentation earlier today, the responses to questionnaires and requests for interviews on which the conclusions of the report are partly based, have not been as high as it had been hoped for.

In a number of instances, statements and conclusions in the report seem to be supported only by the views of a single or few respondents. This is sought mitigated by the authors through various methodological measures. However, it deserves to be taken into account when the Assembly is to discuss the findings of the final report, that the quality of the basis of these findings may actually vary.

Mr. President,

The comments to the interim report of the Legal and Technical Commission and those of the Finance Committee are available to members states. My delegation agrees with the chairman of the review committee, when he stated earlier today that it is up to the Assembly to provide further guidance – or I could add – to draw its own conclusions, in the instances where views expressed by these organs do not correspond to those expressed by the review committee.

In this connection, Mr. President, my delegation would like to underscore the importance of respecting the designated role of the various subsidiary bodies of the Organisation and their respective roles. Any recommendations in the final report that may have financial implications should not be adopted by the Assembly without previous consideration by the Finance Committee, and ample emphasis should be given to the recommendations of the Committee. Similarly, before adopting conclusions within the field of competence of the Legal and Technical Commission, the Assembly should make sure the legal and technical expertise of the LTC is taken duly into account.

Thank you, Mr. President!