Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority
relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for
exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the
Government of the Republic of Korea

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 10 May 2016, the Government of the Republic of Korea
submitted to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority an
application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich
ferromanganese crusts in the Area, in accordance with the Regulations on
Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area,

Recalling that, in accordance with section 1, paragraph 6 (a), of the annex to
the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, the processing of an
application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance
with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the
Agreement,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention and
section 1, paragraph 6 (b), of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for
exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and
the applicant,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of 1 February 2011 of the Seabed Disputes
Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on responsibilities and
obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the
Area,

1 See ISBA/22/C/10.
2 ISBA/18/A/11, annex.
1. *Takes note* of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the Government of the Republic of Korea,¹ in particular paragraphs 26 to 29 thereof;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by the Government of the Republic of Korea;

3. * Requests* the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the form of a contract between the Authority and the Government of the Republic of Korea, in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area.²

218th meeting
18 July 2016