

GER Statement on Item 6 (Issues relating to the election in 2021 of members of the Legal and Technical Commission)

- Germany would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on issues relating to the election of the LTC. Germany would also like to thank the facilitator for his work on these issues.
- Our position on the election mechanism for the LTC is clear, so let me be very brief: The election mechanism for the LTC must be informed by what the LTC is.
- The LTC is a body of experts. It is not a political body such as the Assembly. It is not an executive body such as the Council.
- The decisive criterion for a body of experts should be expertise.
- The LTC's responsibilities include the review of applications for work plans, the monitoring of exploration or future mining activities, the development of environmental management plans and the assessment of the environmental impact of activities in the area, and the development and continuous review of regulations. All of these functions require expertise and only if LTC members have relevant expertise will the LTC be able to perform its functions. We see a particular need to strengthen the LTC's expertise in the field of environmental sciences, as expressed by the LTC itself in ISBA/26/C/.
- Article 163 UNCLOS requires LTC members to have certain qualifications. Due account shall be given to the geographical distribution and special interests, however qualifications and expertise are the decisive criteria that will best enhance the quality of the LTC's outputs.
- In our view any election mechanism should remain true to the requirements of Art. 163 UNCLOS.

- Thank you.