

GER Statement on Item 13 – REMPs

9 December 2021

- With regard to the development of **Regional Environment Management Plans**, like Costa Rica and the Netherlands have stated on Monday, we would like to remind you of the specific proposals made by the Netherlands, Costa Rica and Germany on a standardized approach for REMPs in February 2020, which received broad acceptance and support from many delegations. The main idea was to create a harmonized basis for all regional environmental planning in order to establish comparable regional regimes. One suggestion was the provision of a template for REMPs as specifically provided in a dedicated submission. After discussion in the first part of its 26th Session in February 2020, the Council has decided that the LTC should recommend to the Council a standardized approach and a template (ISBA/26/C/10). We would therefore be grateful to receive information on the specific status of this work and when the Council may expect the respective proposals by the LTC.
- We very much welcome the development of **Regional Environmental Management Plans for specific regions**. In particular, we welcome the efforts to establish four additional Areas of Particular Environmental Interest in the **Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone** of the Pacific Ocean. We are pleased to note that these additional areas improve the representativity of habitats and ecosystems, and close gaps in the current network of such areas. We would welcome if the ISA would also express its commitment that APEAs will be defined as permanently protected areas and hence could contribute to networks of marine protected areas. We furthermore, in this particular case, recognize the compromise that was taken with regard to the establishment of buffer zones for the proposed additional APEIs. However, we would like to underline

that in general the 100 km buffer zones for APIEs are scientifically fully justified and ecologically necessary. Any deviation from this practice may not set any precedence for future designation of APEIs.

With regard to the development of an REMP for the **northern area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge**, we need to stress that the report from the workshop towards developing this REMP, which took place in November/December 2020, does not entirely document the considerations during the discussion. One example are the potentially necessary measures with regard to so-called “sites/areas in need of precaution”. Germany therefore sees a need for an in-depth debate on the Draft REMP for this particular region when it will be presented in Council for discussion and adoption.