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Statement

On Behalf of the African Group

By

Mr. Mehdi REMAOUN

First Secretary

At the

23rd Session of Council of the International Seabed Authority

Agenda item 9: Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2016 relating to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission

Kingston, August 09th, 2017

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

As this is the first formal opportunity for the African Group to address this august chamber, Mr. President, on behalf of the Group please permit me to convey our congratulations on your nomination to the position by the GRULAC Group. We are all familiar with your expertise in the matters that are to be considered during this Session and we eagerly anticipate the progress that can be registered under your leadership. Please be assured of the African Group's support in the important work that lies ahead.

With regard to the agenda item under consideration, concerning the Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2016 relating to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (or LTC).

First of all, the African Group would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report contained in document ISBA/23/C/8. It is the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of a Council decision as it relates to action required of the Secretariat and/or subsidiary organs. We believe that this first exercise is positive and will help us assess implementation of decisions and a good step forward towards preserving institutional memory.

In general, the African Group is satisfied with both the content and format of this report and would like to see similar reports in the future when the Council requests such an update.

Having said that, the African Group would like to share some comments on specific parts of the report.

Regarding Section II of the report on the working draft exploitation regulations and priority deliverables for the development of the Exploitation Code, dealing with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the 2016 Council decision, according to the report, the revised working draft of exploitation regulations was made available for comment to the Members of the Authority and all stakeholders. Given the very low number of member States that commented on the revised draft (only six), and the African Group is very concerned about this low level of interaction, we would like to know by what means the draft was made available, if there was a note verbal that was circulated for instance? Perhaps there is a gap somewhere in the channel of communication between the ISA Secretariat and Member States that would require attention.

Now, concerning section III on contractor training programmes in relation to paragraph 4 of the decision, the African Group welcomes the recruitment of a training officer last month and looks forward to an effective work and result in the area of training programmes.

Coming to section IV of the report on the Secretary-General's procedures to ensure the appropriate classification and secure handling of confidential data and information, this section deals with paragraph 7 of the Council decision, the African Group welcomes the fact that new members of the Commission have been advised of the provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure of the Commission relating to confidentiality and have been briefed on the

procedures set out in annex II to the Secretary-General's Bulletin number 3 of 2011, the African group wishes that such briefings take place systematically with all new members of the LTC.

Mr. President,

That was some comments the African Group wanted to make on the report.

I thank you.