

**INTERVENTION BY SINGAPORE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL DECISION 2016 RELATING TO LTC CHAIR REPORT (COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 9 – WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2017)**

Thank you Mr President,

1 As this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election as the President of the Council of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Seabed Authority. Singapore is honoured to have been elected to serve as Vice-President of the Council, and stands ready to play its role in assisting you. We would also like to thank the Government of Jamaica for hosting us every year and for the warm welcome.

2 We would like to commend the Secretary-General for the report 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. The report serves as a clear and comprehensive update to the members of the Council on the implementation of the decision made at the last session and will be a good guide for us to take stock of progress made, and to collectively chart the way forward.

3 My delegation attaches the highest importance to the speedy development of the regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, such that the Authority can transition into the exploitation phase of its work. As elaborated upon in the report, we are encouraged that there has been significant progress on the draft exploitation regulations. Singapore was pleased to have contributed to the development of the exploitation regulations, including through the submission of our input to the revised working draft of the exploitation regulations in November 2016. A workshop to explore possible payment mechanisms was held in Singapore in April 2017. We look forward to further discussion in the Council during the standalone agenda item on the “Draft Exploitation Regulations”, including a possible road map and timeline for regulatory development.

4 Next, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the LTC’s continued attention to the environmental management of deep seabed activities. It is important that as we take the next step to make exploitation a reality, we should not forget about the need to monitor and mitigate the impact of exploitation activities on our environment. As such, we are pleased to note

that a workshop on the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone and areas of particular environmental interest, as well as a technical workshop on impact reference zones and preservation reference zones, are on the horizon for the Authority.

5           We also commend the work of the Authority in developing a new data management system that is aimed to be implemented in 2018. A functional data management strategy will ensure that the necessary data can be collected from contractors in an effective and efficient manner, the analysis of which would then help to inform the Authority's discussions on environmental and other matters. Additionally, my delegation would like to highlight the need to protect the integrity of the collected data. Obviously, such data relating to the deep seabed can only be collected at a high cost, and some data would be commercially sensitive. We note that the Authority has held technical discussions with contractors concerning various issues and technical problems with the data management strategy. We encourage the continued consultations with the contractors and other relevant stakeholders in creating a well-considered and secure data management system.

Mr President,

6           Singapore stands ready to continue our active participation in and constructive contribution to the work of the Authority and the LTC and we look forward to the fruitful discussions over the course of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session.

7           I thank you, Mr President.

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