

**Algeria**



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**Statement**

**On Behalf of the African Group**

**By**

**Mr. Mehdi REMAOUN**

**First Secretary**

**At the**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority**

**Agenda item 9: Consideration of the final report of the Committee established by the Assembly to carry out a periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

Kingston, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Mr. President,**

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

The African Group would like to start by expressing its appreciation to the review committee established by this august Assembly, two years ago. This committee, pursuant to article 154 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, was been tasked by the Authority member States to carry out the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area. The aim was to review the manner in which the international regime of the Area established in the Convention has operated in practice.

We commend Judge Helmut Tuerk and members of the committee for providing us the final report on the periodic review of the International Seabed Authority.

The African Group would like to also thank the Secretary-General for his report containing his comments on the recommendations in the final report concerning the periodic review.

We take note that the Secretary-General report intended to assist this Assembly in its consideration by providing responses to those recommendations that are addressed to the Secretary-General or concern the secretariat.

However, we noticed that the Secretary-Geneneral indicated that several recommendations have been acted upon already. Eventhough those recommendations should have been endorsed before by this Assembly prior to implementation, the African Group may accept an anticipated implementation of the recommendations aiming at improving internal processes within the secretariat, but we have concerns with the implementation of recommendations of strategic nature without prior guidance from member States.

The African Group would not like to go much into the substance of the report and would rather limit its observation to its recommendation 10.

On recommendation 10, which calls for an increase in the number of meetings of the Council, the African Group raises serious concerns over the implementation of this recommendation if no financial support is provided for its members represented in the Council in order to allow them to attend additional meetings of this organ.

We already shared our views on this matter last week during the consideration by the Council of the report of the Finance Committee. The African Group made a proposal calling for support for developping member countries of the Council, to enable them actively participate in the resumed sessions of the Council. This proposal should be considered under the report of the Finance Committee by the Assembly tomorrow. We strongly commend this proposal for appropriate consideration.

To conclude, we would like to recall that according to Article 154 of the Convention, this Assembly might take or recommend that other organs take measures that lead up to the improvement of the operation of the regime of the Area.

We look forward to the launch and follow up of the implementation of these recommendations, taking into consideration our concerns and those of others as the Assembly considers the final report.

I thank you.