

Statement by Belgium  
Agenda Item 9: Consideration of the Final Report of the  
Article 154 Review Committee  
Delivered by HE Guy Sevrin

Thank you Mr President. Since this is the first time this delegation takes the floor, I would like to congratulate the President and Vice-presidents as well as the SG and his team for their efficient leadership. Thanks also to the host country for the great hospitality. Special thanks to the review committee and Ambassador Tuerk for the excellent report. Thanks to the SG for his remarks.

We congratulate especially the SG for creating in a short period of time a new and strong momentum in the works of the ISA. The proposed revised meeting schedule is an excellent step in the right direction.

We fully support the idea of having 2 Council meetings during the next 2 years , so we can speed up the work towards reaching a workable set of regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area as soon as possible.

We also welcome the call for more workshops and seminars on essential issues such as environment, royalties, legal aspects, etc.

Concerning the idea of 2 council meetings per year we fully support the Dutch proposal made in the Council of inverting the LTC and Council meetings next year. We know that many delegations support that idea that is more effective for the work to be done.

In order to finance additional travel costs for a number of delegations to attend the extra council meeting, we would like to propose the creation of a specific Voluntary Trust Fund for that purpose. We look forward to any reactions to this proposal.

My delegation also welcomes recommendation 16 that calls for more transparency in the works of the LTC, if possible through more open meetings.

Thank you Mr President.