

The Statement of the Chinese Delegate on Standards, Guidelines and Key Concepts at the Council Meeting of the First Part of the 25th Session of the International Seabed Authority

(February 25, 2019)

Thank you, Madam President.

We also thank the secretariat for the briefing on relevant issues. The Chinese delegation would like to share some views on standards, guidelines and key concepts.

1. Given that the deep-sea mining involves many aspects such as environmental protection and technology, China supports the development of relevant standards and guidelines to supplement the main framework of the Exploitation Regulations.

2. The development process for standards and guidelines should be open and transparent, as well as widely listen to the opinions of stakeholders, especially those of the contractors. The development process should be coordinated with the development of the Exploitation Regulations, and optimally keep abreast of the latter if possible. Deep seabed mining should not start before the necessary standards and guidelines are put in place.

3. Relevant standards and guidelines should be compatible with the current technical level and practical ability of deep seabed mining, remain stable, and avoid frequent changes in contents, so as not to arbitrarily increase the contractors' burden.

4. In accordance with the UNCLOS and 1994 Implementing Agreement, relevant standards and guidelines should in principle be issued by the Council, and the LTC could make recommendations to the Council in this regard.

5. The key concepts such as good industry practice and best

practices, if ultimately included by the Exploitation Regulations, need to be explicitly defined, so that the contractors could implement them with clear understanding.

Thank you, Madam President.