

Intervention by India on 26 February 2019 on Agenda Item 11 – Precautionary Approach

Thank you Madam President.

We thank the secretariat for preparing the document on this issue and Mr. Brown for his brief on this matter. Our delegation supports the views expressed by the distinguished delegate of Brazil that it should be 'precautionary approach' but not the 'precautionary principle'. The technical capabilities vary from contractor to contractor. However the signing of the contract brings all the contractors on the same playing field. It may be noted that the reserved areas allotted to the developing nations have already been on par with other contractors from developed nations. Hence the level playing field is already ensured and a precautionary approach need not be different. The para is very significant and be further developed to avoid any preferential treatment to any contractor in the exploitation code.

The point mentioned in the concluding remarks regarding the 'over engineering' it is very important and in our view it may be called 'over prescription'. It is similar to antibiotic resistance that occurs because of over prescription of the antibiotics. REMPS is a good example of precautionary approach.

Going back to the discussion on REMPS, our delegation further wants to mention that there was a debate on identifying an outside agency for the purpose identifying or operationalisation of REMPS. We strongly feel that LTC is competent agency to deal with this issue and therefore no other agency is required. Contractor's scientific data and wisdom of LTC are enough to arrive at best possible REMPS.

