



Council

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Decision of the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 27 July 2012, the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) submitted to the Secretary-General an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area,¹ in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area,²

Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,³ the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention⁴ and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,

1. *Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission on the request for approval of a plan of work for exploration for*

¹ See ISBA/19/LTC/5.

² ISBA/18/A/11.

³ General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by COMRA transmitted to the Council,⁵ in particular, paragraphs 26 to 29 thereof;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by COMRA;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the form of a contract between the Authority and COMRA in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area.²

*188th meeting
19 July 2013*

⁵ ISBA/19/C/2.