



## Council

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### **Draft decision of the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides by the Government of Poland**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,*

*Noting that, on 25 January 2017, the Government of Poland submitted to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area, in accordance with the Regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area,<sup>1</sup>*

*Recalling that, in accordance with section 1, paragraph 6 (a), 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,<sup>2</sup> 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 Convention<sup>3</sup> and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement,<sup>2</sup> 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 1 February 2011 of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area,*

1. *Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by the Government of Poland to the Council,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraphs 32 to 36 thereof;*

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>4</sup> ISBA/23/C/11.



2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by the Government of Poland;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the form of a contract between the Authority and the Government of Poland in accordance with the Regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area.<sup>1</sup>

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