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**Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work
for exploration, if any**

Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic massive sulphides by the Government of Poland

Executive summary**

1. Pursuant to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area ([ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1](#)), the Ministry of the Environment of Poland hereby submits an application to the International Seabed Authority for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic massive sulphides.

Applicant

Ministry of the Environment

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2. Poland is a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, having deposited its instrument of ratification on 13 November 1998.

3. The Ministry of the Environment elects to offer an equity interest in a joint venture arrangement in accordance with regulation 19 of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Area.

4. The area covered by the present application has a total span of 876 km and lies within the limits of two large segments of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, located between

* [ISBA/23/LTC/L.1](#).

** Submitted by the applicant.



the Hayes, Atlantis and Kane transform faults/fracture zones (26⁰09', 32⁰50' N). The area consists of 100 exploration blocks of 10 km² each. The blocks are grouped into five clusters (a, b, c, d and e), each containing from 7 to 36 blocks.

5. The Ministry of the Environment assures the Authority that the area covered by the application does not overlap with reserved areas already delineated or with those claimed by other States parties, State enterprises or natural or juridical persons.

6. The area covered by the application is a part of the international seabed area and is beyond the limits of the national jurisdiction of any State and claimed continental shelf.

7. The Ministry of the Environment agrees to pay the application fee of \$500,000 at the time of submitting the application, as set out in paragraph 1 of regulation 21.

8. The Ministry of the Environment undertakes to comply with the provisions of the Convention and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority and the terms of its contract with the Authority.

9. The Ministry of the Environment will conduct its exploration activities in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in part V of the regulations and with the principles relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment set out in the Convention on the Law of the Sea.
