

Italy

Statement on the implementation of decision of the Council relating to the reports of the chair of the Legal and Technical Commission in 2018.

Thank you for your guidance of the Council and thanks also the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing this session.

Italy welcomes the report of the SG on the progress made in relation to the implementation of the decision of the Council on the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission in 2018 and acknowledges the significant improvements that have been made with the new draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area that have been available for consultation since last March.

Furthermore, Italy considers with great interest and welcomes that Contractors have positively received the request by the SG to make available some information related to their contracts for exploration. This step towards an increased transparency will be beneficial for the marine scientific community that will be made aware with more detail of activities of exploration carried out in the deep ocean and will have more chances to seek cross-cutting collaborations for purposes that may go beyond seabed mining.

This increased transparency, which will also facilitate wider awareness within public opinions, will surely foster marine scientific research in the Area which is one of the many mandates of the Authority, the only organization entitled to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, under article 143 of the Convention.

Finally, Italy would like to express its gratitude towards all the member states and other stakeholders and institutions that have organized or are organizing workshops in tight collaboration with the Authority on matters regarding the development of regional

environmental management plans and guidelines for the mining code. These workshops represent tremendous efforts for the organizers and are of paramount importance for gathering the best available scientific and technical knowledge and making further progress in the draft regulations. We are convinced that they should have an increasing role in the work of the authority.