

Thank you, Madam President. The Republic of Korea appreciates the Secretariat's preparation and introduction of the Note and for its hard works.

ISBA/25/C/10 document para. 1 states that the procedural mechanisms are necessary to ensure effective protection for the marine environment, and that independent review mechanisms by the Authority are required in connection with the environmental plans and performance assessments under the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

The establishment of independent review mechanism is supported by Article 163 para 13 and Article 165 para (e) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and draft regulations Article 12 para(5)(b), Article 40 para(2)(h), article 50 para(5)(c) and article 50 para(6).

In particular, Annex 7 to the Draft Regulations, environmental management and monitoring plans must be verified and reported by independent competent persons.

The Republic of Korea fully agrees with the secretariat note para 4 that independent reviews should be conducted or sought and the timing and frequency of such reviews will also require clarification.

The independent review would require development of a roster of independent competent persons. When establishing the roster, in addition to respective experts in the field of fisheries, protection and preservation of the marine environment, and marine scientific research and navigation, including pollution from vessels and by

dumping as stated in Article 2 Annex 8 of the Convention, the Republic of Korea is of the view that the experts who have a background or experience in deep seabed mining should also be included in the roster such as ore collecting, lifting, determining the amount of mineral ore and carrying out deep sea activities on board.

The procedures for the inclusion and selection of experts on such roster should be made transparently by collecting opinions from member states, ISA and contractors. It is important to note that the use of relevant experts should be limited to supplementing and supporting the performance of the LTC and not to replace their functions and decisions.

Thank you.