

Statement by Professor Mariusz Orion Jędrysek (Secretary of State, Chief National Geologist, Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Poland) the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Poland on the occasion of considerations by the Council of The International Seabed Authority of the Government of Poland for a joint venture with the Enterprise

Kingston 2019.02.28

Madame President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the head of the Polish delegation to this 25th session of the International Seabed Authority I wish to say that we feel very honored that the Polish proposal for a joint venture with the Enterprise is being under considerations by the ISA Council with the objective of potential approval.

The operationalization of the Enterprise independently of the Secretariat, pursuant to the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant paragraphs of the 1994 Agreement, ensures that the Enterprise, as a unique entity established by international law, is able to directly engage in at first exploration and then the commercial mining activities in the reserved areas and represents the assets of the International Seabed Authority in terms of mineral resources.

In the area of Poland's interest is making an application for approval of a plan of work and partnership with the Enterprise for one reserved area for cobalt-crusts and probably one reserved area for polymetallic nodules.

Poland being the country that has made great effort to enter the dynamic path of economic development recognizes the great importance to advance the implementation of article 136 of the Convention, which provides that the Area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind, as well as the establishment of the corresponding system outlined in article 153 of the Convention.

The decision that is to be considered by the Council today, creates an opportunity and equitable prospects for developing countries which are unable to do so either directly or as sponsoring States to participate in activities in the Area, as provided under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.

The importance of the Enterprise was also emphasized in the final report of the Committee established by the Assembly to carry out a periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention.

Poland is a country with long tradition of mining and metallurgy; you will be interested to know that the Polish experience concerns extraction of lead, zinc, copper, silver, and some rare earth elements and other rare metals. Poland is as well the sponsoring State for the approved programme of exploration for polymetallic sulphides and the depositary of intergovernmental agreement establishing the InterOceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) that has been carried out exploration activities in the Area for more than 30 years, being one of the pioneer investors and **the only one**, among the ISA contractors, international

consortium, composed of developing and developed countries of different geographical locations, including land-locked countries.

We are excited at the prospect of becoming a partner in the joint venture with the International Seabed Authority represented by the Enterprise. We consider this will be a great opportunity for us to contribute with our expertise to develop in a sustainable way this project with the great potential of equitable sharing of marine minerals assets in the spirit of collaboration towards safeguarding the Common Heritage of Humankind.

Let me conclude by thanking the Secretariat and the distinguished members of the Council and honorable Eden Charles – the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for the Enterprise, for the common efforts during the work on completion and considerations of our proposal. This is a very unique moment of the International Seabed Authority and we are very happy that Poland contributes in the process of activation of the Enterprise.

We are looking forward to further work on that matter. We are fully aware of the responsibilities we are taking upon ourselves. We will work hard to fulfill them – about this I can assure all of you.

As the International Seabed Authority celebrates its 25th anniversary I am taking this opportunity to donate to the exhibition organized on this occasion by the Secretariat the commemorative and educational illustration of activities in the Area, which the main component is the sample of polymetallic nodules collected during IOM exploration expedition.

Thank you very much Madame President, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates, Observers