

Republic of Poland - statement on Item 14

Thank you Mr President,

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates

The Republic of Poland would like to express sincere appreciation to the Legal and Technical Commission and its Chair for this Report. We also appreciate extremely valuable work of the LTC at the draft regulation of exploitation and other matters. Poland notes the support of the Secretary General, Secretariat and Facilitators and the contribution of the Member States during work at this fundamental document.

I would like to congratulate Mr Harald Brekke and Mr Thembile Joyini for their re-election as Chair and Vice-Chair of the LTC. I can assure you of our full support for your work.

Poland highly appreciates the LTC substantive work. The Commission does not only face with a challenge of developing the Mining Code but also deals with the current duties like reviews of applications for plans of work or annual reports submitted by contractors. It requires extensive and multi-task knowledge in a variety of aspects. That is why it is so important to ensure the interdisciplinary and independent role of the Legal and Technical Commission, as it is a fundamental feature and advantage of this Organ of the ISA.

Poland welcomes the information about the LTC and its working group further work on the development of regional environmental management plans in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits. We are happy to hear about further developing the "Guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans".

Mr President, let me also refer to a mechanism for the election of the LTC members. Poland believes that this crucial issue should be the priority of the Council. Development of the mechanism that will meet all the specified regulations in UNCLOS is important not only in view of the upcoming elections but also will show our willingness to reach a compromise.

Thank you Mr President