

Statement by the Delegation of Canada, Kingston, Jamaica, 16 March 2023

Mr. President, Secretary General, members of the Secretariat, dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to see you all again in person here in sunny Kingston and we wish to thank the Government of Jamaica for their hospitality.

Mr. President,

With your indulgence, I would like to take the opportunity at the start of our meeting to inform the Council of a recent statement by the Government of Canada on seabed mining.

On February 9, to clarify Canada's position on seabed mining, our Minister for Fisheries and Oceans and our Minister of Natural Resources issued a [statement](#), at the fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), held in Vancouver, Canada.

In the statement, Canada reiterated that it does not currently have a domestic legal framework that would permit seabed mining in areas under its jurisdiction, and that in the absence of such a framework, our government would not authorize seabed mining.

At IMPAC5, the Government of Canada's 2023 Marine Protected Area (MPA) Protection Standard was also further detailed. The Protection Standard will help safeguard new MPAs in Canada's jurisdiction from the potentially harmful effects of specific industrial activities, including by prohibiting mineral exploration and exploitation in MPAs.

For areas beyond national jurisdiction, the statement, which we invite all delegations to read, does not depart from our commitments in other international fora, nor from the position that this delegation has been advocating on the Council.

As we have stated here before, Canada believes that seabed mining should only take place if effective protection of the marine environment is provided through a rigorous regulatory structure, applying precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches, using science-based and transparent management, and ensuring effective compliance with a robust inspection mechanism.

Canada also believes that knowledge of the deep sea marine environment and of potential impacts of deep-sea mining is critical for any review, consideration and approval of a plan of work for exploitation.

Canada will continue to uphold the principles, rights, duties, and obligations in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and negotiate in good faith on regulations to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment and the realization of the common heritage of humankind principle.

Thank you