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**Nineteenth session**  
Kingston, Jamaica  
15-26 July 2013

**Draft decision of the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association**

*The Council of the International Seabed Authority,*

*Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,*

*Noting that, on 27 July 2012, the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) submitted to the Secretary-General an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area, in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area,<sup>1</sup>*

*Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,<sup>2</sup> the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,*

*Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention<sup>3</sup> and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,*

*Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,*

1. *Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission on the request for approval of a plan of work for exploration for*

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<sup>1</sup> ISBA/18/A/11.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by COMRA transmitted to the Council,<sup>4</sup> in particular, paragraphs 26 to 29 thereof;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by COMRA;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the form of a contract between the Authority and COMRA in accordance with the Regulations.

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<sup>4</sup> ISBA/19/C/2.