

## **STATEMENTS BY REPUBLIC OF KOREA** (27 March)

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor and good afternoon to all. And I would like to thank the French delegation, my good friend Ambassador Olivier Guyonvarch for preparing and leading this important action and the call for partnership and all participating countries.

We have reviewed the call for partnership paper carefully with many appreciations. Of course we do share many points and views expressed in this paper.

Yet, we believe that the issue of the commencement of commercial mining shall be addressed in accordance with the Law of the Sea Convention and its Implementing Agreement and rules to govern the commercial mining activities shall be finalized as soon as possible. We think that this is the best way to guarantee the protection and preservation of marine environment against commercial mining activities and also to share all kinds of benefits arising in relation to the activities with all humankind.

As far as I know our research institute, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, which has conducted exploration of deep seabed

about 30 years, plans to participate in the joint scientific research project for the Deep Sea and its ecosystems which is mentioned in this paper. We will continue our strong commitment to the works of ISA in integrity and again we thank a lot for the initiative on the call for partnership made by the French delegation.

I thank you Mr. President.

<ISBA/28/C/L.2, ISBA/28/C/2>

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor and good morning to all.

I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of ISA for the Enterprise for his report and also thank distinguished representative of Ghana on behalf of the African Group for the draft decision relating to the appointment of an interim director general of the Enterprise.

With regard to the content of the African Group's proposal, we in general support the evolutionary approach for the step-by-step operationalization of the Enterprise. It seems it becomes the right time for us to seriously consider what would be the next steps for operationalization of the Enterprise and we think consideration of the appointment of the interim director general is one of the next steps.

We also agree with the extension of the terms of reference of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise as proposed by the African Group.

We look forward to review the detailed budget report by the Finance Committee in the second part of this Council session.

I thank you Mr. President.