

Statement of Norway on Item 10

- Thank you Mr. President.
- Let me begin by welcoming your engagement and efforts towards the Council achieving the agreed roadmap, including through your helpful suggestions to how we as Council can continue our deliberations of a robust legal framework in a timely manner.
- The roadmap, developed after the Council failed to adhere to the two-year rule deadline in July this year, sets a clear target date for achieving a solid, framework that can ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, while also holding us as Council members accountable to our common objective and obligation to finish our work in a timely fashion.
- As we have stated previously, Norway agrees with the objective that mining in the Area should not occur without the complete mining regulations in place. Furthermore, we have repeatedly said that Norway will not support any mining activity until and unless it can be clearly documented that it could be done safely and with effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects, including a strict application of the precautionary principle, as well as clear mechanisms for inspection, enforcement and compliance and a mechanism for the equitable sharing of financial benefits from activities in the Area.
- In our view, the absolute best and most preferable avenue to avoid a situation whereby a work plan will have to be considered in the absence of regulations is for the Council to redouble its good faith efforts to finish the regulations.
- In this regard, Norway is deeply grateful to the facilitators of the informal working groups for steering our work so wisely and diligently in the previous sessions. We have achieved great results under their leadership.
- At the same time, Norway believes that there is merit in discussing new constructive ways to achieve the necessary progress in these negotiations. We therefore firmly support that we, in line with the agreed roadmap, prepare a consolidated text to form the basis of the discussions at the 29 Session. This will allow us to see the regulations in

their entirety. This will in turn enable us to identify cross-cutting issues and key outstanding questions that we can focus on solving going forward.

- Norway is ready to adhere by the suggested 10 December deadline for new proposals, noting however that new compromise text, for instance in the form of new joint proposals resulting from future discussions of the consolidated text and aimed at securing broad agreement, will of course be a key component of our continued efforts at reaching consensus. We further believe that there can be merit in allowing for informal informals where relevant and necessary. At the same time, Norway believes it is paramount to ensure that any outcomes of such informal informals are shared in an open and transparent manner with and in Council, including with Observers, allowing for both comments and frank discussion.

- Thank you.