



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

## **29^ Session of the International Seabed Authority**

### **Meeting of the Assembly**

#### **Statement of Italy**

Item 16 - Proposal for a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment

Thank you Mr. President,

Italy is supportive of the elaboration of a general policy of the Authority for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

We welcome the possibility to discuss further and to provide an overarching framework to all organs on issues related to the marine environment. However, we agree with the concerns of other delegations especially on the effectiveness of such exercise in the context of the Convention and the 1994 implementation agreement. We actually wish this discussion leads to concrete and straightforward outcomes.

We agree in particular with UK and others on the need to involve with an improved role the Legal and technical Commission and to refine the draft decision in particular by safeguarding the respective competences and prerogatives of the Council and the Assembly, within the scope of the existing legal framework we are already working on, including in particular the REMPs, and all the other documents pertaining to the protection of the environment.

Should the procedure be clarified in this direction, we will support the idea of intersessional work, provided it does not interfere in the negotiations within the Council on the draft regulations for the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Area, which should remain the main goal of the ISA according to the roadmap adopted by the Council.