

**The African Group expresses support for the President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority and for the modalities of work outlined in the Briefing Paper issued on 4 June 2025**

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We recall that the Council, through its decisions and deliberations, has reiterated its collective commitment to advance negotiations in good faith and to deliver on the shared responsibility to finalize the Mining Code.

We recognize and commend the leadership of the President of the Council, whose dedication and inclusive approach have been instrumental in maintaining momentum in a challenging and complex process. We particularly acknowledge his efforts in presenting clear and structured modalities of work to enable focused and results-oriented discussions in July 2025.

We urge all delegations to approach the upcoming July negotiations with a spirit of cooperation, flexibility and purpose, and to actively support the President's efforts to guide us toward this collective objective.

This is a critical moment for the Authority. Recent developments have demonstrated that, if we do not show a sense of purpose in our deliberations, the noble mandate entrusted to us, could continue to be threatened, if not undermined altogether, and could affect the credibility of the Authority to discharge this mandate effectively.

The responsibility to finalize a robust and enforceable legal framework rests on our shoulders. We are confident that, with the leadership of the President and the structured approach he has outlined, we can fulfil the mandate entrusted to us by UNCLOS for the benefit of all humanity.