

GER Statement on Item 8 (Status of contracts for exploration and related matters (periodic reviews and relinquishments))

6 December 2021

- Thank you Mr. President!
- As I take the floor for the first time, I would like to congratulate you on your election and assure you of the full support of the German delegation for your presidency.
- Germany would like to make three brief points on the periodic reviews of contracts for exploration:
 - First, we would like to **thank the Secretariat** and the LTC for its extensive work and thorough review of the annual reports and periodic reviews of the now thirty-one contractors. In our view the facilitation of the implementation of plans of work is a very important task of the Secretariat and periodic reviews are a valuable tool in this regard. We are aware that the LTC's workload has increased in recent years, also due to the growing number of exploration contracts, which we welcome.
 - Second, we would like to **thank the LTC** for its template for periodic review reports. We welcome that all recent reports have been based on the template and are confident that this practice contributes to consistency in reporting.
 - Third, we are convinced that the contractors' environmental assessments are of great importance for ensuring an effective protection of the marine environment which is part of the *common heritage of mankind*. It is essential that these assessments are based on an agreed standard including effective normative requirements. They are of great interest to many stakeholders. We would therefore like to propose

that the assessments and the information entailed is systematically gathered, made available to the public, and used for an effective management of the resources – under modalities, of course, that are acceptable to all interests involved.

- Thank you.