

## **GER statement on Roadmap (Agenda Item 12)**

8 December 2021

Thank you Mr. President.

- As this is the first time that I take the floor, I would like to join others in congratulating you on your presidency. I would also like to thank the people of Jamaica for their hospitality.
- Furthermore, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for providing us with an updated and specified road map.
- In my delegation's view and as noted by others before us, the road map well reflects the results of yesterday's discussion and we greatly appreciate the efforts put into it.
- There are three points that I would like to make.
- First, more time than 2 days should be allocated to the phase 1 standards and guidelines. There should be room for an in-depth discussion regarding the selection and on the conceptual set-up of the phase 1 standards and guidelines.

- Second, we would welcome the use of virtual or hybrid formats for the informal working groups throughout the year. We should ensure an inclusive process in which all Council members and stakeholders can participate.
- Against this background, we see merit in establishing a Council task force, as suggested by Costa Rica and others, to continuously monitor and develop the roadmap. Germany would be willing to assist in this process.
- Third, we wish to express our support for the proposal made by Belgium yesterday.
- The Council should indeed consider requesting an advisory opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
- At the moment there are many questions regarding the legitimacy of deep sea mining in the absence of a clear legal framework and we have heard some of these questions yesterday. In our view, the guidance of an ITLOS advisory opinion could serve to de-politicize the issue.
- If we decide to consult ITLOS we need to factor in the time that ITLOS may take for handing down its

opinion. So, if we want to have legal certainty by July 2023 we should not wait too long with our request.

- If the Council decides to set up a task force to work on option for such a request, which we would support, we stand ready to actively participate in it and to put in the extra work.

Thank you, Mr. President.