

## Opening Statement Germany

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Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

I would first like to assure you of the full support of the German delegation during the meetings in the coming two weeks under your presidency.

Germany thanks the delegation of France for the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Members States regarding the continuing aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Germany firmly stands behind that Statement and supports the statements made by many others.

We also thank the Secretariat for the preparation of our third meeting this year and for working together with our host country, Jamaica, which we also thank, to make the meeting possible here in the Jamaica Conference Center.

Germany wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the multilateral framework of the International Seabed Authority, created by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to the mandate of the Authority. It is this framework, that aims at the preservation of the seabed by regulating access and prohibiting any activity that would result in the irreparable destruction of ecosystems.

Let me also reaffirm Germany's commitment to participate actively and constructively in the work of the Authority, as we have done since its creation.

Our contributions to the negotiations in the Council and in the working groups, especially since the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Authority, highlight the crucial importance we attach to environmental and biodiversity protection in the regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

Mister President, Members of the Council, Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany continues to critically review its general position on deep-sea mining. The German Government here wants to underline its view that the current knowledge and available science is insufficient to approve deep seabed mining until further notice.

Subject to national legal review, Germany will therefore not sponsor any plans of work for exploitation until the deep-sea ecosystems and the impacts of deep-sea mining have been sufficiently researched and until there are exploitation regulations with strict environmental standards in place, ensuring that the marine environment is not seriously harmed.

Germany insists on the strict application of the precautionary approach and sees the need for a *precautionary pause* in deep-sea mining, facilitating further marine scientific research.

We invite Members of the Authority to also consider their position on the sponsoring of exploitation activities.

Thank you, Mr. President.