

Berlin, 4th December 2020

Comments on the application for approval of a plan of work for exploration of polymetallic nodules by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd.

Submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the application for an exploration contract by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd., sponsored by Jamaica, and thanks the President of the Council for the opportunity to submit written statements with regard to the application, as a replacement for a debate that would have been allowed for under regular, non-pandemic circumstances. We would like to point out the following observations regarding the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission for the Council to adopt the Plan of Work of Blue Minerals Jamaica (doc. [ISBA/26/C/22](#)).

The information provided about the technical capacity and the resources of the applicant as well as the “operational partner” may be regarded as limited. Regulations 10, 11, and 12 of the applicable Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area and related matters require applications to provide sufficient information on these matters.

As the application submitted by Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd. is only the latest in a series of applications with small exploration sub-areas, we suggest to include the issue of *criteria for site selection* of exploration areas on the agenda of the next in-person Council meeting, with a view to guiding future applicants and the LTC on criteria for the appropriate size and shape of exploration contract areas and sub-areas.

Confidentiality

Germany hereby consents to making the contact details and this submission publicly available on the ISA website.

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