

Speaker: Mr Daniele Bosio

**Item 11 – IWG Protection and preservation of the marine environment
General remarks and comments on Germany's proposal on test mining**

Thank you, Madam Facilitator, for giving me the floor and let me first thank you for your constant leadership and for having provided us with the revised version of the draft regulations Parts IV and VI and related Annexes in time for discussion during this meeting.

Allow me first to remind that Italy has constantly supported the importance of creating an institutional and regulatory system based on sound scientific knowledge, on the precautionary principle and on the "ecosystem-based approach", with the aim of minimizing any harmful impact on marine ecosystems deriving from deep-sea mining activities in the Area. This comprehensive system includes remote monitoring and inspection mechanisms appropriate to the sensitivity of the operations as well as adequate and efficient remediation mechanisms commensurate with all the potential environmental and safety risks that may arise.

We are fully aware of the potential impacts of deep sea mining activities on marine ecosystems as such and their functioning as a climate regulator. Therefore, in committing to the negotiations, we work for adoption of the highest standard of protection and will continue to actively engage in these negotiations with a view to contribute developing effective environmental standards as binding elements in future permitting processes. Furthermore, we will continue to advocate the need for improved knowledge of the deep sea as necessary baseline to a sustainable exploitation of resources that belong to humankind. Italy believes that exploitation should be based on better understanding of the effects of deep-sea mining on the marine environment, biodiversity and human activities, so that the risks will be understood and the technologies and operational practices will ensure the environment is not seriously damaged, in line with the precautionary principle.

In this view, we are very appreciative of Germany's proposal on test mining as it allows to make operational those environmental thresholds we have been discussing so far and which are widely recalled in the draft regulations.

We look forward to contribute to the further development of the proposal and we reserve the right to make further comments at a later stage when the specific regulation will be discussed.

Thank you Madam Facilitator