

Italy – Statement 9th December 2021
26th Session of the International Seabed Authority

ITEM 17
ISBA/26/C/15 and ISBA/26/C/46

Italy welcomes the reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise Eden Charles, who we thank for his work in these difficult times.

Italy supports the Council requesting the Assembly the establishment of the position of an Interim director general of the Enterprise, as suggested by the LTC in its report ISBA/26/C/12.

We believe that, in compliance with the provisions of the 1994 Implementation Agreement, such post should be created within the Secretariat to represent the interests of the Enterprise even within the context of the negotiation of the DR, as already properly performed by the Special Representative. However, any decision in respect of the Interim director general should be taken considering the budgetary implications, which were not actually included but only foreseen or calculated in the last approved budget of the organization, and based on the availability of human resources in the Secretariat.

As for the possible joint venture with Poland, we understand that progress of the proposal has been rather limited so far, probably also as a consequence of the economic and financial challenges of these difficult times. For this reason, Italy believes that the finalization of the joint venture should not constitute the main priority at this stage, but a possible development to be explored in the future.