

International Seabed Authority Assembly,

4 August 2022

Item 15 - Election to fill vacancies on the Council

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to thank all members of the Assembly for the re-election of Italy for the Group A of the Council.

Italy has been contributing actively to the work of the Authority since its entry into activity and has been a member of the Council since 1999.

We strongly support the work the Council performed so far and will continue to perform in the future in drafting a balanced and effective text of the Regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, ensuring the highest possible level of protection of the marine environment from harmful effects.

Our economic development model, as was recently reviewed by the Parliament, will be based on the green transition and the progressive replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy sources. The green and digital transition will have important repercussions on the whole Italian industry.

Italy's economy is among the world's major consumers of copper, zinc, nickel, lithium, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt and rare earths elements, as raw minerals and semi-finished products, which form the basis of much of the Italian manufacturing sector and a significant share of its exports in particular of industrial machinery and automotive.

For such metals, at this moment Italy does not exploits its own resources and the Italian industry is dependent on imports. Ongoing investments on the production of high performance double-sided photovoltaic modules, for example, will add up to the current demand of this category of metals.

Mr. President,

Italy's economy needs a global market working on sound principles of free competition, transparency, open connectivity and a regular flow of goods. At the same time, as we stated several times during this session, we are strongly committed to a sustainable science-based use of marine natural resources, to the preservation of the ecosystems' integrity and to the creation of an institutional and regulatory framework for the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Area focused on scientific knowledge, the precautionary principle and the ecosystem-based approach.

Italy is shaping its own mining culture based on sustainability throughout the life span of the mine, from research to environmental restoration. We believe this should also applies to seabed mining activities.

In this context deep-sea mining should not commence until we approve, prior to the authorization of exploitation contracts, a strong regulatory framework ensuring that the environmental effects associated with activities in the Area will not create detriment to deep-sea ecosystems.

Thank you, Mr. President.