

**Speaker: Mr Daniele Bosio**

**Item 11 – Review of the progress on the Roadmap**

Thank you Mr President.

As many delegations already stated, Italy acknowledges the important work the Council accomplished during this session. This was possible thanks to the tireless work of the facilitators of the working groups, who allowed the Council to speed up negotiations.

Italy reaffirms its commitment to work for the creation of a robust institutional and regulatory system based on sound scientific knowledge, on the precautionary principle and on the "ecosystem-based approach". Again, we underline that deep-sea mining should not commence until an adequate regulatory framework ensures the minimization of impacts of the exploitation prior to the authorization of exploitation contracts.

In this respect, it is our belief that, at this stage, we have to do our best to continue positively engaging in the negotiation process. Intense work awaits us in the incoming sessions of the Authority. At the same time, we believe that the conclusion of these negotiations should not hinder the quality of the regulations, particularly with respect to the need to ensure the highest level of protection of the marine environment. We support the principle that the quality of the regulations should not be weakened because of imposed deadlines.

Mr. President,

We should today converge on the next steps to be taken in the next meetings of the Council, including the identification of the necessary intersessional work, as was properly stated by the distinguished delegate of Fiji and others, to ensure that progress is achieved by the next July session.

We have to do our best to make the most of our work so far and to ensure the timely adoption of the exploitation regulations taking stock of the methods and practices used so far. We believe this is the best and most effective way to ensure the highest level of protection of the environment.

As far as the viable options in case we realize the July 2023 deadline cannot met, we reserve proposals at a later stage as the work proceeds.