

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Poland would like to express sincere appreciation to the International Seabed Authority and Member States for all the work and efforts in keeping the Authority running during this challenging time.

Poland appreciates all activities aimed at developing the draft regulation of the exploitation, environmental and human heritage protection and effort to make equitable sharing of benefits.

Due to the global pandemic, the Polish delegation could not participate in this session in person. We are full of hope that we will be able to meet face-to-face next year at the 27th session of the ISA.

Meanwhile, our delegation appreciates the opportunity to participate in the session in a hybrid format.

At this point, we would like to thank everyone who put in their effort and work to made it possible.

Regarding to document ISBA/26/C/44, I would like to thank to Secretary General for this report and proposed road map for 2022 and 2023.

In opinion of the Republic of Poland, establishing Mining Code should be a priority for the ISA but proposed in Annex III, the in-person 3-weeks session of the Council can be insufficient to establish so multi-faceted issues in which a precautionary approach is highly required.

We would like to propose informal and intersesional working groups in hybrid format before plenary meeting and plenary meetings of the Council in face to face format to summarize the adopted approach and conclusions.

In our opinion that format could ensure the efficient work .

Thank you Mr. President