

STATEMENT OF NORWAY

10 November 2022

- Thank you Mr. President.
- First, let me thank the French ambassador for elaborating on the French position and explaining its background and purpose.
- Norway would like to share some initial reactions to this new French position of calling for a “complete ban” or “prohibition” on deep seabed mining activities in the Area.
- I should say at the outside that these are just some initial reflections and that we will assess these issues further in the coming days and weeks.
- It follows directly from UNCLOS that we have an obligation to develop regulations for both exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area, for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
- We are legally obliged to develop rules and regulations to ensure that deep sea mining can occur in an environmentally sustainable fashion, based on robust environmental standards and the precautionary principle. This is our task in this forum, and this is what we must achieve. A prohibition against deep sea mining seems an unfortunate departure from our collective endeavors to complete the Mining Code and thus achieving our legal obligations.
- Let me be completely clear once more: Norway shares many of the concerns voiced by France and others and believes in the objective that mining should not occur without the complete mining regulations in place. In our view, the best way to achieve this is to continue and to redouble our efforts to finish the regulations.
- Norway welcomes France’s continued support for the Authority and would like to encourage all states to continue to participate, in the same constructive manner as we have seen in this council session, to achieve in the words of our colleagues “un cadre juridique multilatéral, fort et protecteur” – before any mining activity commences in the Area, as we are all obligated to under the Convention.