



Intervention of Msgr. Tomasz Grysa
Head of the Delegation of the Holy See to the First Part of the
Twenty-fifth Session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority
Operationalization of the Enterprise
Kingston (Jamaica), 25 February – 1 March 2019

Madam President,

My Delegation thanks the Special Representative for his report on matters related to the Enterprise and welcomes the proposal of Poland for a joint venture with the Enterprise. Listening to this morning discussion, my Delegation would like to make two short remarks.

First, as eloquently stated by the African Group, Jamaica and India, we are looking here for the implementation of the provisions contained in the UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. As we say in Latin, *pacta sunt servanda*. The operationalization of the Enterprise is not an optional, it is a duty of Member States. And the Council can seize this occasion, offered by Polish proposal, to make it happen.

Second, while negotiating the draft framework for this joint venture, we should not lose from our sight the evolutionary approach, well illustrated by French adage, “*le meilleur est l’ennemi du bien*”. At the present stage, we may not have the answers to all the questions raised during our discussion, but we should be able to acknowledge that the operationalization of the Enterprise is the right thing to do. And I am not saying this to neglect or undermine legitimate concerns voiced by some delegations, but rather to warn that we should not set the standards for the future joint venture at an unattainable height, which may result in stalling the negotiations for a long time.

We should rather engage in good faith in consultations in order to achieve a long-overdue implementation of the Convention, which will make the concept of the common heritage of mankind more concrete and tangible. It will also allow to tell a good story to the Nations represented here that, through the Enterprise, every Nation can participate in the benefits of the seabed mining and nobody is left behind.

Thank you, Madam President.