

Polish statement on Item 13: Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at its 26th session

The Republic of Poland would like to congratulate the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission for this Report. We are satisfied to see that the Commission could proceed their work despite the covid pandemic and the travel restrictions. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the organizational support to make it possible.

Regarding the considerations of the annual work of contractors we note with satisfaction that contractors in general were able to continue and made progress with their work despite the pandemic restrictions. We note that those circumstances make the compliance with the approved plans of work difficult to achieve. We consider that if any delay in implementation of plans of work exists due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it may made difficult their work in the future. We are concerned by the situation that he pandemic had had an overall adverse impact on the number and type of planned training activities - this situation is difficult and we appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat to address this issue.

We pleased with the fact that those contractors that had their exploration contracts close to the end of the approved period, decided to apply for the extensions. This is crucial for the entire scope of activities of the Authority. We cannot underestimate the positive impact of the exploration in the Area on the goals of the marine and environment research. We note with satisfaction that many contractors decided to publish their exploration work outcome in the scientific journals which are open for the community. We realize that if the ISA has now more than 30 exploration contracts approved, we can face the situation of some imperfections in contract's implementation, but we know that the role of the LTC is to monitor these situations and react in a timely manner. Therefore, it is important to effectively adopt the criteria for selecting members of the Legal and Technical Commission which fully reflect the regulations set out in the UNCLOS Convention.

The review of the implementation of the environmental management plan for the CCZ is a significant matter, especially in the light of developing exploitation regulations. We welcome the progress in this respect.