

Thank you, Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Mr President, on behalf of the Polish delegation I would like to congratulate you the election. I can assure you for our support.

The Republic of Poland would like to express sincere appreciation to the International Seabed Authority and the 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.

Poland sees progress in the work on the Mining Code. We are full of hope that the Mining Code will be developed efficiently and in an appropriate balance to ensure both fair access to the mineral resources and full respect for the protection of the natural environment. Environmental issues are significant for Poland and an equal, distribution and preservation of human heritage.

However, Poland is concerned with the deadline for developing the Mining Code associated with the ISA due to the Republic of Nauru's request. **While we believe that establishing Mining Code should be a priority for the ISA**, we think that it should not be done under the pressure of time.

In our opinion, the 1.5-year period that we have left can be insufficient. Developing the best regulations can turn out very difficult - the quality of the prepared regulations should be the priority. Therefore, **ISA and all Member States should take all possible efforts to intensify work on the Mining Code by the 2023 deadline. Poland will also work intensively in this regard.**

Thank you, Mr President