

**PART I OF 25TH SESSION OF ISA COUNCIL MEETINGS  
AGENDA ITEM 11 ON  
DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR EXPLOITATION OF  
MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE AREA:  
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

**INTERVENTION BY SINGAPORE**

Thank you, Madam President.

1 We join the other delegations in thanking the Secretariat for preparing the two reports. Our remarks pertain to the issue of Standards and Guidelines.

2 On the outset, the Singapore delegation would like to highlight our view that the regulatory framework should contain an appropriate balance between certainty, as represented by the regulations, and flexibility, as represented by references to Standards and Guidelines in the regulations. This is important to allow our practices to keep pace with our ever-expanding knowledge so as to enhance the protection and preservation of the deep sea marine environment.

3 Given the needs for Standards and Guidelines in order to provide the necessary flexibility, we would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the discussion paper and for taking in the feedback of delegations at the last ISA Session. We have taken note of the Annex and understand that the LTC will be looking into this issue and that there will also be a workshop in Pretoria in May this year.

Madam President,

4 We note that the Annex is constructed on the basis of the content of the Standards and Guidelines. We would like to suggest that in looking at the priority items, the LTC also takes into account what needs to be developed in parallel with the draft regulations, and what can be left for subsequent development.

5 In our view, what needs to be prioritized are Standards and Guidelines that will enable the first part of the draft regulations, namely, the application process, to be implemented when the draft regulations enter into force. This is to avoid a situation where an application is submitted upon the adoption of the regulations and no guidance is available both to the applicant and to the LTC and Council on navigating the application process. Given the life span of an exploitation contract, Standards or Guidelines that will apply later in the life span of the contract, for example, Standards or Guidelines that will apply only when commercial production is underway, can be developed later.

6 We should also consider the process for the development of Standards and Guidelines. We understand that the suggestion is for the establishment of technical working groups. We agree that this may be the practical way forward. However, we note that due to resource limitations, not all stakeholders will be able to participate in all technical working groups. Hence, we support the suggestion in para 17 of the paper that the technical working groups would update the LTC on its progress. The LTC would then review the outcome of the work of the technical working groups and submit a final text to the Council for its consideration.

7 I thank you, Madam President, for giving me the floor.

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