



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale of the International Seabed Authority No. ISA/EOSG/2024/011 dated 17th January 2024, regarding the following two applications for approval of plans of Work for exploration submitted by the Government of India:

Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides covering a total area of 10,000km² in the Carlsberg Ridge of the Indian Ocean,

Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts covering a total area of 3,000km² located at the Afanasy Nikitin seamount in the Central Indian Ocean. The Permanent Mission wishes to inform the Secretary General that the Government of Sri Lanka has presented its continental shelf submission to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) in May 2009, under the Statement of Understanding (SoU) adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, on 29 August 1980, contained in Annex II to the Final Act of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission also wishes to bring to the attention of the Secretary General that the area specified under the second application for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts located at the Afanasy Nikitin seamount in the Central Indian Ocean has been claimed by Sri Lanka under its continental shelf submission to the UNCLCS and is pending final recommendations.

In view of the above, the Permanent Mission requests that consideration of the application by the International Seabed Authority for exploration of cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts located at the Afanasy Nikitin seamount in the Central Indian Ocean is withheld until final recommendations are made on Sri Lanka's submission by the UNCLCS.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 05th April 2024

The Secretary General
International Seabed Authority
Jamaica

