

Intervention by India on Item 13: Report of the Chair of LTC

09.12.2021

Thank you, Mr President for giving the floor to India. Good Morning/Good Afternoon/Good evening to fallow delegates.

First of all, we congratulate Mr. Harald Brekke from Norway and Thembile Joyini from South Africa for their election as Chair and Vice-Chair of LTC. Thanks to the outgoing Chair and vice Chair. Congratulations to other new members of the LTC.

We would like to join the other delegations in congratulating the LTC for the excellent job carried out and also submitting a comprehensive Report on the work of Commission during physical meeting in Feb-March 2020, virtual meetings in July 2020 as well as in the month of March to Sept 2021.

The Commission has done huge amount by work related to review of 29 (for 2019 year) and 30 (2020) annual reports submitted by Contractors, approval of plan of work for exploration by Blue Minerals Jamaica Limited, consideration of 7 applications for the extension of contracts for explorations, selection of candidates for various training programmes. Development of standards and guidelines for activities in the Area is another major achievement of the LTC.

We want to draw attention particularly to the Annual Reports of the Contractor for the year 2019 and 2020 as it is important and significant and are a true reflection of the activities that are being carried out in the Area and it is also important to realise that these activities are finally going to account for the seabed mining in future. We are delighted to note that all contractors have submitted their annual reports on the activities carried out during the year 2019 and 2020 within the stipulated time. The Commission has also acknowledged the general improvement by the Contractors in complying with the relevant template for reporting. It was also noted that most contractors continued to make progress in the collection or analysis of baseline environmental data, analysing existing or new data and, in several cases, taking stock of previous data and undertaking a review of several years' worth of data collection that would support future sampling efforts. However, some contractors did not provide corresponding digital data files. In terms of the programmes of activities, several contractors had to adjust their plans of work for 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The contractors made efforts to make progress with their work despite the constraints resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.

On training activities, it is noted that it had been necessary to re-advertise many training opportunity due to lack of sufficient number of candidates and postponement of many training programmes due to Covid-19. Wide publicity

of call for training opportunities are required and cooperation of all stakeholders is necessary to get more applications.

We also noted with concern that during physical meeting in Feb-March 2020, a total of 8 members from developing countries were not able to participate due to lack of financial support from the Voluntary Trust Fund. One member each of the Commission did not attend the virtual meetings in 2020 and 2021.

Thank you, Mr. President.