



Council

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Decision of the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides by China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association

The Council of the International Seabed Authority, acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 7 May 2010, China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association submitted to the Secretary-General an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area,¹

Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,² the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention³ and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,

Reaffirming the obligations of contractors with the Authority to comply fully with the terms and conditions of the contract, including the reporting of environmental data and actual and direct exploration expenditures in accordance with the Regulations and the standard terms of contract,

Noting the Advisory Opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,

¹ ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

1. *Notes* the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission on the request for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association transmitted to the Council,⁴ in particular its paragraphs 31 to 34;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides submitted by China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the form of a contract between the Authority and China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association in accordance with the Regulations.

*168th meeting
19 July 2011*

⁴ ISBA/17/C/11.