

December 7, 2021

DSCC Intervention on Agenda Item 11: Report of the Secretary-General ISBA/26/A/8-ISBA/26/C/23 on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2019 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission

We refer to our earlier comments about the need for the reports, reviews and breaches to be made public. This is a matter we have raised earlier in previous sessions as well.

We also note that the Council in 2019 in ISBA/25/C/37 in para 15 requested that the Secretary-General report to the Council on an annual basis, identifying instances of alleged non-compliance and regulatory action recommended or to be taken, and invited the relevant sponsoring States to provide any information relating to such non-compliance and measures taken to ensure compliance under contracts for exploration.

Mr President, we will discuss standards and guidelines later, but we do wish to support the comments by Costa Rica, and Earthworks, noting there is no new version incorporating the comments; as well as that the draft standards and guidelines are based on them on the March 2019 version of the draft regulations as if no comments were made on them.

Finally, Mr President, the Secretary-General referred to workshops. These workshops are important in the work of the Commission, and we recall the comments made in earlier sessions about the need for the workshops to be open and transparent, including the development of the agenda, speakers, attendees and reports.