



Council

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Draft decision of the Council relating to an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the Government of the Republic of Korea

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 10 May 2016, the Government of the Republic of Korea submitted to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area, in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area,¹

Recalling that, in accordance with section 1, paragraph 6 (a), 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 section 1, paragraph 6 (b), 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,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of 1 February 2011 of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area,

1. *Takes note* of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission to the Council relating to an application for the approval of a plan of

¹ ISBA/18/A/11, annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

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



work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by the Government of the Republic of Korea,⁴ in particular paragraphs 26 to 29 thereof;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts submitted by the Government of the Republic of Korea;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the form of a contract between the Authority and the Government of the Republic of Korea, in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area.¹

⁴ [ISBA/22/C/10](#).