

Intervention by the delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica.

Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting of 7 November 2023.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the Implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management.

Thank you Chair for giving me floor, good afternoon colleagues,

Costa Rica welcomes the Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management.

In particular, we note the references to sea mining throughout the document.

Sea mining is a practice that some countries, companies, and powerful interests promote globally in the international arena, including at the International Seabed Authority, where the regulation of the practice has been under discussion for years.

In this sense, article 145 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes that "the necessary measures shall be taken [...] to guarantee the effective protection of the marine environment against harmful effects that may arise from such activities".

We consider that Member States should drive the International Seabed Authority and not vice versa. Decisions must come from MS and must not be pushed by those who have only administrative duties.

Mining the seabed cannot be rushed because of the economic interests of a few.

The damages from this activity can negatively affect the ecosystems. Many scientists have warned us of the devastating effects that mining can have, so we must act with care as we are both beneficiaries and stewards of a clean and healthy environment.

Costa Rica is among the countries that requested the United Nations General Assembly for more data before collecting mineral samples in the Ocean. Our country has tried to impose a deep-sea mining moratorium and to halt or ban mining activities.

There is relevance to starting seabed exploitation activities, but only once there are solid regulations that ensure compliance with the obligation to protect the marine environment and comply with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Costa Rica's territory has 6% of the planet's biodiversity, achieved 54% forest cover in recent decades, and protects 30% of its international maritime territory. We have worked efficiently to protect the environment, and we would not wish for any detrimental practices to be taken recklessly elsewhere.

Costa Rica reiterates the need for a robust regulatory framework and adequate marine scientific information, as well as the institutional strengthening of the Seabed Authority that promotes transparency and accountability and we hope this can be reflected on the Co-Chair's Summary.