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Fiji's Intervention

Agenda Item 14: Report on Matters Related to the Enterprise

Madam President,

Fiji thanks the Special Rep of the SG for his report.

The issue of the Enterprise is of particular interest to Fiji as a Pacific Small Island Developing State as the Enterprise is expected to enter in to JVs to undertake exploration and exploitation in the Reserved Areas set aside for developing countries. Delegates will recall we expressed this position in 2014 during Council's consideration of the Nautilus proposal for a JV with the Enterprise.

We note the positive comments been made by previous interventions. We fully support the further work being recommended in the report by the Special Representative with a view to the Enterprise becoming a reality. In this regard we also note the need to appoint without delay an Interim Director of the Enterprise noting there has been no such appointment since the resignation of the previous incumbent in 2013.

We also note the contractors exploring for cobalt crust have opted for JVs with the Enterprise, and yet there is currently no opportunity for discussions on what this JV may look like, since there is no Enterprise or person(s) representing the Enterprise.

We support the suggestion that the Enterprise needs to have a voice in future discussions on the exploitation regulations and support the suggestion that the any future TOR of the Special Representative include this provision.

At this stage we have no comments on Annex 2 of the report which is a draft of a possible JV with Poland and the Enterprise, except to register our view (as echoed by Algeria for the African Group) that the financial provisions are unacceptable.