Art. 151 - System of exploration and exploitation

1. Activities in the Area shall be carried out, organized and controlled by the Authority on behalf of mankind as a whole in accordance with the provisions of this article as well as other relevant provisions of this Part of the present Convention and its annexes, and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority adopted under subparagraph (xvi) of paragraph 2 of article 158 and subparagraph (xiv) of article 160.

2. Activities in the Area shall be carried out as authorized by the Authority as prescribed in paragraph 3 below:

(i) by the Enterprise, and

(ii) in association with the Authority by States Parties or State Entities, or persons natural or juridical which possess the nationality of States Parties or are effectively controlled by them or their nationals, then-sponsored by such States, or any group of the foregoing which meet the requirements provided in this Part of the present Convention including annex II.

3. Activities in the Area shall be carried out in accordance with a formal written plan of work drawn up in accordance with annex II to the present Convention and approved by the Council after review by the Technical Commission. In the case of activities in the Area carried out as authorized by the Authority by the entities specified in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph 2 of this article, such a plan of work shall in accordance with paragraph 3 of annex II be in the form of a contract. Such contracts may provide for joint arrangements in accordance with paragraph 5 of annex II.

4. The Authority shall exercise such control over activities in the Area as is necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with the relevant provisions of this Part of the present Convention, including its annexes, and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority adopted under subparagraph (xvi) of paragraph 2 of article 158 and subparagraph (xiv) of paragraph 2 of article 160.