



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT BY

BY

MR. AMADOU JAITEH

HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

AT THE

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEABED AUTHORITY

TUESDAY 25TH JULY 2018

KINGSTON, JAMAICA

**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary- General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I bring to you fraternal greetings from the people of the Republic of The Gambia.

Mr. President.

It is my wish to align myself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Algeria, my brother Mehdi, on behalf of the African Group,

I wish to congratulate **Mariusz Orion Jedrysek** on his election to the high and coveted position of President of the Twenty-fourth Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly. My delegation wishes to assure you of our full support.

In the same vein, I wish to express appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. **Eugenio Joao Muianga of Mozambique**, for the able and efficient manner in which he conducted the affairs of this august body during his tenure.

On behalf of the Republic of The Gambia, my delegation wishes to state on record that, we are grateful and will continue to be grateful to the Government and people of Jamaica, the Host Country, for the hospitality accorded to us during our time here.

Mr. President

Allow me to pay tribute to Secretary-General **Mr. Michael Lodge** for his inspiring leadership and relentless efforts in steering the work of the Authority. My delegation appreciates your very comprehensive report and we wish you and your entire staff success in all your endeavours.

Mr. Secretary-General, My delegation takes note of the bold decision you took to exercise your mandate to establish and operationalize the enterprise as required by the Convention on the law of the sea and 1994 agreement respectively. History will surely remember you as the Secretary-General who established and operationalized the enterprise to enhance the work of the authority for the benefit of all.

Mr. Secretary-General, as I close my remarks, my delegation encourages you, your staff and partners of the authority to continue to be innovative, as evident in your new initiative call – the Secretary-General’s Award for Excellence in Deep-sea Research, the aim of which is to encourage and celebrate the participation of young scientists from developing countries in deep-sea research.

We thank you for this initiative and congratulate **Dr. Amon of Trinidad and Tobago** on her exemplary success in becoming the first recipient of the **Secretary-General’s Award for Excellence in Deep-sea Research**.

I thank you all for your attention.