

Statement by Japanese Delegation on Item 8: Draft Strategic Plan

Thank you, Mr. President,

- The delegation of Japan would like to express its profound appreciation to the Secretary-General and other staff of the secretariat for preparing the comprehensive Draft Strategic Plan.
- It should be noted, that in preparation, briefing sessions were organized by secretariat and members of the Authority and other stakeholders were properly consulted. Japan is one among many members and stakeholders that submitted their suggestions in writing.
- In the Plan, the Mission of the Authority is assessed by listing up its mandates with their legal basis. It also describes challenges the Authority will face in fulfilling those mandates, and then priorities in the period of 2019-2023 are identified. For our delegation, the development of exploitation regulations which motivates contractors to exploit deep sea minerals and at the same time protect the unique and vulnerable environment in deep sea, is on the top of the priorities.

However, it is a well-organized plan with which our delegation is satisfied and supports it as it is. We look forward to adopting the draft decision in Annex II.

- Our delegation also highly values the efforts paid by the Secretariat in outreaching relevant regional and International organizations to further strengthen the cooperation. And although the SDGs themselves are not a legal mandate of the Authority, we are appreciative of the secretariat's efforts in considering how the Authority can contribute in achieving SDGs especially SDG 14.
- Once again, our delegation would like to express many thanks to the secretariat for drafting the strategic plan in a proper and timely manner, despite its limited resources, and it hopes the secretariat will continue to further prioritize those Strategic Directions and priorities in order to optimize the efforts in fulfilling the duties of the Authority as custodian of the common heritage of mankind.

Thank you, Mr. President