

Delegation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Agenda Item 8: Consideration and adoption of the strategic plan for the Authority for the five-year period 2019-2023

Mr. President I will like to congratulate you on your excellent stewardship in guiding our deliberations this week.

Mr. President it is well known that ‘a people without a vision soon perish’. We are ensuring that we would not perish because we do have a vision.

Mr. President I am taking the opportunity to wish the Government and people of Jamaica Happy 56th Independence Anniversary in advance and to thank them for their usual excellent hospitality.

Mr. President, the Authority is engaging all of us in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. We do wholeheartedly agree that we do have a moral and economic obligation to ensure that the resources of the Area are really for the benefit of all mankind- not some, but all ,while we contribute to the delivery of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG14-Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Mr. President, to enable the effective management of the Area, a comprehensive regulatory mechanism for commercial deep seabed mining is critical during the exploitation phase.

Trinidad and Tobago recognises that the Authority faces several challenges, including, market uncertainty, pollution, inadequate financing for the Enterprise, too many to mention at this moment. But it is not beyond this august body to

overcome these challenges; once we do have the resolve that the activities of the Authority especially with the imminent arrival of the Enterprise ,is not for selfish pursuits but to generate resources on an equitable basis for mankind. This includes many small island developing states as well as land locked states.

The Enterprise is our proverbial baby, which was created for the transporting, processing and marketing of minerals from the Area and I repeat for the benefit of all mankind. The rate of exploitation and the equitable distribution are real obstacles but not beyond our common will.

Mr. President, we have to not only talk the talk but walk the walk for those small island and land locked states whose existence are being threatened economically and physically. Marine Scientific Research must be a continuum in the Area and the results of such research is disseminated in a timely manner.

The task at hand requires us to join with other international agencies in the fight against global pollution and climatic change.

The physical existence of some of our members warrant serious consideration and therefore while we focus on the Area, let us not forget our global interdependence.

The Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2023 is well prepared and worthy of implementation.

Thank you Mr. President.