



Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

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**Speech by Kaiser De Souza
African Minerals Development Centre addressed to the Assembly of the of
the International Seabed Authority**

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Mr President.

Since this is the first time that the African Mineral Development Centre takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Assembly, and join other Observers and delegations to wish you a very successful Session.

I would like also to express my sincere appreciation for the clear and comprehensive report on the work of the Authority provided by the Secretary-General.

The AMDC wishes to thank the Authority and the Secretary-General for the crucial role it played in the success of the Kampala Workshop, which was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Authority, the Pew Charitable Trust and the AMDC.

As has been noted in the Secretary-General, this is the first Workshop on the Deep Seabed Mining in a landlocked African country.

We wish to thank the government of Uganda for their excellent hosting of the workshop and for their critical role in the success of this landmark Workshop.

We have no doubt that this Workshop has played a very important role in the journey towards getting more African attendance at the Authority meetings and also the in the future sponsoring by African States of entities to enter into exploration contracts with the Authority.

As we would point out, Africa is the only Regional Grouping that has so far not sponsored an entity to engage in exploration activities.

The AMDC stresses its commitments to continue to work with the Authority and the African States to ensure that African States engage more directly with deep seabed mining activities.

We intend to organize more high profile workshops in different regions of Africa to raise more awareness and to foster cooperation to promote participation and sustainable development of Africa's deep seabed activities.

Also, the AMDC is pleased to be one of the co-organizations that have entered into voluntary commitments with the Authority as stated in paragraph 53 of the Secretary General Report.

The AMDC is committed to closely working with the Authority on this for the benefit of the African Blue Economy.

Mr President.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the announce made by the SG about the AMDC side event that will take place this afternoon at 6:15pm, just after the conclusions of the work of the Assembly.

The side event will take place at the Delegates Dining Room and will count with presentation by, and discussions with, AMDC Officials on the prospects for improving African participation in the deep seabed mining regime.

The invitation is open to all the members of the Authority.

Thank you very much Mr. President.