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*Statement by the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda at the  
23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed  
Authority on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, Kingston, Jamaica*

*Presented by H.E. Mr. Dwight C. R. Gardiner, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary &  
Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the International Seabed Authority*

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**Mr. President,** let me preface my statement by expressing congratulations to you and the other members of the bureau on your election at this 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. I would wish to further commend you for the leadership you have demonstrated in the conduct of this meeting and to convey the support of my delegation towards its fruitful conclusion.

In addition, I would like to express appreciation to the host country Jamaica for their warm hospitality.

**Mr. President,** in January of this year, H.E. Michael W. Lodge assumed the office of Secretary-General of this organization, and, on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, I would like to congratulate him on his election to this post. We look forward to working with him to advance the work of the ISA.

My delegation expresses its gratitude to Secretary-General Lodge for his comprehensive report on the progress of the organization in the past year. My State remains committed to engaging with the International Seabed Authority in the advancement of the goals set out in Part Eleven of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement.

Antigua and Barbuda continues to note and welcomes the work undertaken by the Legal and Technical Commission and wishes to express its appreciation to the members of the commission for their continued work.

**Mr. President,** turning specifically to the Report of the Secretary General, my delegation notes the final report of the Committee established under Article 154 of the convention to undertake

a periodic review of the way in which the regime established under Part Eleven has operated. We note the recommendations which have been made by the Review Committee and we remain wholeheartedly committed to the conclusion of this process.

We note the establishment of the online database of national laws and regulations as requested by the Council a number of years ago. This initiative, we believe is of critical importance in building capacity globally through the sharing of best practices in respect of the methodology and provisions of legislation across the globe which seek to regulate activities within the Area. My State will look keenly at the existing legislative frameworks which are available through this forum with a view to determining any relevant provisions which may guide us in the development of our own national legislation. Rest assured, we will also provide updates on any actions which Antigua and Barbuda takes in this regard.

Whilst on the topic of information sharing and capacity building, we applaud the initiatives by way of workshops, seminars and cooperation with other international agencies that the Authority has undertaken over the past year. One key element of the Area itself is its use as the common heritage of mankind, and such effective use cannot be realized without initiatives involving education, training and mutual cooperation and collaboration.

**Mr. President**, as the Authority continues the process, began in 1982 here in Kingston and look towards the prospects of exploitation of the resources of the Area, it remains our responsibility to ensure that the Authority, its Commissions, the member States and Contractors work together to realize the benefits of the resources falling within the Area.

**Thank you.**