



Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

Special Commemorative Session of the International Seabed Authority

Statement by: H.E. Ambassador Jane J. Chigiyal, Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations, Head of Delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia to the 25th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

Kingston, Jamaica, 25 July 2019

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Thank you, Madame President.

My delegation joins others in expressing our congratulations to the Authority on its 25th anniversary. Throughout our history, drawing on science as well as centuries of traditional knowledge as complementary sources, Micronesia has strived to balance the protection of the marine environment with careful utilization of its resources, in a manner that reflects a core truth in our islands: We do not own the land or sea; we borrow them from future generations. As we look ahead to 25 more years of work for the Authority, my delegation calls on the Authority to bear that notion in mind.

We also underscore the importance of an international order based on the rule of law, including international law. The law of the sea is a hallmark of international law, and the ongoing work of the Authority on its Mining Code and the operationalization of the principle of the common heritage of mankind is a good example of the rigor and promise of international law. The process has not been perfect, though. To the extent that the Authority can improve its work in this regard going forward, including in terms of enhancing transparency in its activities, this must be pursued.

Finally, my delegation welcomes efforts by the Authority to link up with other international processes of relevance to its work. We encourage more work in this regard in the years ahead, including in connection to processes that deal with climate change, Ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss, all of which are relevant to activities in the Area. We must break down persistent silos, particularly with respect to the natural environment. We have one Ocean, and much of it remains unknown. Let us therefore all act as one, with humility, to conserve and manage it for present and future generations.

Thank you, Madame President.