



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT BY

BY

MR. AMADOU JAITEH

HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

AT THE

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED
AUTHORITY

TUESDAY 23rd JULY 2019

KINGSTON, JAMAICA

**Madam. President,
Mr. Secretary- General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I bring to you greetings of peace and prosperity from the people of the Republic of The Gambia. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Algeria, my brother Mehdi, on behalf of the African Group. My statement will not repeat most of what has already said on behalf Africa but rather to highlight with a view to adding emphasis on some points.

Madam President I wish to congratulate you on your very successful election by acclamation to the high and coveted position of President of the Twenty-fifth Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly. We the Assembly, has indeed made history as we commemorate 25 years of history with a distinguished female at the helm of this body. My delegation wishes to assure you and the bureau of our full support.

I would also like to express appreciation to your predecessor, **Mr. Mariusz Orion Jedrysek of Poland**, for the able and efficient manner in which he conducted the affairs of the Assembly in the past Session.

While in the mood of offering pleasantries, it will be remiss of me to leave out our host country, Jamaica. My delegation wishes to express gratitude to the Government and People of Jamaica, for the continued hospitality accorded to us in every session of the ISA. The authority couldn't ask for a better host.

As we mark 25 years of the Authority, you would agree with me that many members of the Authority are now sensitized and are aware of the good work of the Authority. Which means increase in interest and participation in the work of the Authority. And this also means access to Jamaica, but access to Jamaica cannot be attained without the removal of visa restriction for participants.

My delegation is happy that we are not only speaking to the President of the Assembly but also an authority of the Government of Jamaica. We echo the voice of the African Group and hope that visa restrictions to Jamaica will be a thing of the past.

Madam. President

Allow me to pay tribute to Secretary-General **Mr. Michael Lodge** for his inspiring leadership and relentless efforts in steering the work of the Authority. Under his leadership, ISA continue to register increase in number of participation as already alluded to. My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General and his able staff for his comprehensive annual report

My delegation takes note of the financial assistance extended to experts from Member States of developing countries through the assistance of the Trust Fund. We ask the SG to be more innovative and committed to securing funds into the pot of the Trust Fund considering the important role and diversity participants bring to the Authority. We remain grateful to all contributors for their continued support.

In closing **Madam President**, my delegation welcomes the outreach programmes of the Authority and encourages the SG to continue engaging in conducting more training workshops in the Continent of Africa as we saw in May of this year, the workshop held in Pretoria, South Africa.

I thank you all for your attention.