

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF

MARTHA AMA AKYAA POBEE (MRS.)

**AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 15TH JULY, 2017

Mr. President,

May I take this opportunity to join other delegations to congratulate you on your election as President of the 23rd Session of this Assembly and for the excellent manner in which you have conducted proceedings so far. I also commend the Members of the Bureau as well as the Secretariat for their support. My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the African Group and to assure you of our fullest cooperation towards the success of this Session. My delegation would also like to thank the President of the 22nd Session for his able stewardship during the last meeting of the Authority.

Mr. President,

We would like to congratulate the Government and people of Jamaica on their 55th Independence celebrations and also to convey Ghana's appreciation for the hospitality extended to delegates as well as the continuous efforts in ensuring the success of this Session and the work of the Authority on a whole.

My delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Michael Lodge on his election as the Secretary-General of the Authority and expresses Ghana's continued support to his office. Our appreciation also goes to the former Secretary-General, Mr. Nii Allotey Oduntun for his extensive contributions and invaluable service to the Authority and its Members during his tenure.

Mr. President,

My delegation has noted with much appreciation, the various reports presented by the Secretary-General, the Legal and Technical Commission, the Finance Committee and the Council, on the activities of the Authority and we welcome the initiatives that have been taken towards ensuring the fulfillment of the intention of the framers of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, Ghana has acceded to Part XI of the Convention as a show of her commitment to the matters concerning the common heritage of mankind. To also ensure the efficient functioning of the activities of the Authority, Ghana has also ratified the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority.

Mr. President,

My delegation takes note of the draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area submitted for the consideration of Members by Legal and Technical Commission. Ghana encourages the exploitation of mineral resources in a sustainable manner and therefore, invites members to study the Draft Regulations and submit their comments in the framework of sustainable development. We encourage members to submit their response within the indicative timeline.

My Delegation also takes note of the report of the Finance Committee and commends the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Lodge, for his leadership and the efficient and effective manner he has administered the finances of the Authority as

well as the efforts being made to make gains and savings in the budget of the Authority.

Mr. President,

The Government of Ghana is deeply appreciative of the Authority's activities, together with the contractors, in the area of capacity building. This has made it possible for several trainees, particularly from developing countries, to benefit from trainings in areas such as deep seabed mining among others. My delegation is happy to note that a candidate from Ghana has been selected for the JOGMEC training programme scheduled for 2018 and more particularly, the fact that the candidate is a female and coincidentally, a member of Ghana's delegation to this Session. My delegation notes the Secretary-General's call for support for the continuation of the Authority's internship programmes towards building the capacities of students and young officials and would like to encourage members to contribute to this important effort.

Finally, Mr. President,

My delegation notes and commends the Secretary-General for his efforts in bringing information to the door steps of Members, particularly, through his meetings, anytime he is in New York where most Members have representation.

Thank you, Mr. President.