

25TH SESSION OF ISBA – 22ND JULY 2019 - ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 3 – ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

H. E. Minister Mariusz Orion Jędrysek, President of the 24th Session of the Assembly,

H. E. Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General of the ISA,
Distinguished Head of Delegations, delegates and observers,

Good morning.

Mr. President,

On behalf of GRULAC, I would like to express our gratitude for your work and your guidance during the 24th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, when we took important decisions.

Under item 3 of the agenda that we have just approved, we have to decide on the election of the presidency of the 25th Session of the Assembly of ISA. It fortunately coincides with the turn of the Group of Latin-American and Caribbean member states to present a candidate. It is indeed an extraordinary session as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of ISA - our now full-grown up organization responsible for the common heritage of mankind that lies in the seabed of the Area as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

I would like to share with you that GRULAC met a month ago to discuss and decide on several issues of the 25th Session agenda. The very first one was our candidacy to preside the Assembly.

Our decision there, Mr. President, was taken by acclamation and a round of applause.

So, GRULAC is honored to propose to the Assembly that it elects the Honorable Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, as our President for this significant session.

We believe it is needless to point out several reasons why Jamaica, the host country of ISA, should preside this special session. But we would like to stress that, in our view, the main one is indeed the candidate herself.

Honorable Senator Johnson Smith is well known and admired by all Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors based in Kingston, as we follow daily her intense work as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and her important role in Jamaica's Parliament. We have been witnesses of her political and diplomatic talents and skills, which are also shared by many foreign authorities and delegations in other international and regional organizations.

Minister Johnson Smith has a long curriculum summed up in the site of the Government of Jamaica, so we would like to highlight just a few points of it:

Senator Johnson Smith is a lawyer and holds a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

She has been Senator since 2009.

She was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in March 2016.

She has represented Jamaica in countless bilateral, regional, hemispheric and international meetings in practically all continents.

She served as President of the Council of Ministers of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries (ACP) in 2018, when she presided the 107th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers and the 43rd Session of the Joint ACP-European Union Council of Ministers.

She also chaired the CARIFORUM group from July 2016 to June 2017.

GRULAC rest assured that, under Minister Kamina Johnson Smith's stewardship, the 25th Session of the Assembly will be sailed on fair winds and following seas throughout beautiful Caribbean waters to a safe harbor of very fruitful debates and very wise decisions.

Mr. President,

With those remarks, we dare take the liberty to suggest to you to invite all Member States to endorse GRULAC's candidate to preside this session by acclamation.

Thank you