

**Statement to be delivered by Ms. Barbara Haley, Director, Frontiers Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the 25th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority – ISA Headquarters, Kingston, Jamaica, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Madam President

Mr. Secretary-General

Distinguished members of the Government

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam President

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is honoured to participate in this historic session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. We congratulate you on your election and pledge the cooperation of the Guyana delegation as you guide the Assembly in the fulfillment of its mission. We also thank your predecessor, Mr. Mariusz Jedrysek for his stewardship in piloting the 2018 Assembly. This process has culminated in the much needed Strategic Plan of the ISA for the period 2019-2023. The key priorities contained in that plan reflect a common consensus of member states and observers of the ISA as well as relevant stakeholders

on the elements that are integral to safe management and development of the resources of the Area for the benefit of all mankind.

As we celebrate twenty-five years (the silver jubilee of the ISA) we look to the Authority for continued fulfillment of the high mandate of the Authority as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention.

His Excellency David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana sends his congratulations to the Authority for the work it continues to do to protect the marine environment. His Excellency the President is concerned at the effects that unsustainable exploitation of land and marine resources can have on our environment. And his vision is to leave a “Green State” for coming generations of Guyanese. In this regard, the Government of Guyana developed and launched a Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 in May, 2019.

This Special Commemorative Session to mark the Authority’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary provided an excellent opportunity not only for reflection on its

past achievements but also on its future direction. It may be useful for us to look closer at some of the concrete suggestions/proposals arising out of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session to determine their feasibility for implementation. It is an exercise in which the Secretariat and the main Committees may profitably engage for the mutual benefit of all.

In spite of the progress already made, much more needs to be done if coastal states like Guyana and small island developing states are to achieve the SDG14 and other goals and targets set out in Agenda 2030. International Cooperation has therefore become even more urgent. The real need for enhanced cooperation with donor agencies to realise these Development Goals in the midst of the challenges has been reinforced in the Secretary General's 2019 Report.

It is against this background that Guyana would like to thank the donors for their contributions to the work of the ISA and welcome the expressed commitment of other donors.

Madam President, as we celebrate the silver anniversary of the International Seabed Authority, I would like on behalf of the Government and people of Guyana to recommit ourselves to the purposes and principles of the Authority and to offer the Secretary General and his staff our appreciation for their hard work. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with you and the ISA in the years ahead, in the preservation of the health of the oceans and seas and in ensuring the sustainability of livelihoods.

Finally, allow me to thank the translators for a work well done!

I thank you.