

Statement of India on commemoration of 25th Anniversary

Thursday 25 July 2019.

Madam president, It is our proud privilege to be here in the silver jubilee year of International Seabed Authority. We could not have chosen a better place. This beautiful country and warm natured people gently remind us of our commitment to the common heritage of the mankind. We can never thank them enough for their hospitality and warmth.

The walls of this very auditorium echoed the voices of many stalwarts like Excellencies Mr. Satyanandan, Mr. Nii Odunton, Secretary General Mr. Michael Lodge, presidents, vice presidents, members of assembly, council and LTC, ambassadors, lawyers and even scientists. We salute all of them for giving us this vibrant organisation. We witnessed the ISA becoming a robust and matured organisation. It would not be an exaggeration to say that very few organs of the United Nations have been as successful in integrating the nations as ISA has been. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbam' which means "the world is one family", a verse of Maha Upanishad is engraved in the entrance hall of the parliament of India. This is very close to the motto of ISA i.e. 'common heritage of mankind'.

It is our pleasure and pride to be one of the pioneer investors. We signed two contracts with ISA for the exploration at two sites in the Indian ocean, the only ocean which is named after a nation. We are the lone contractor at PMN site in Central Indian Ocean. We are happy that our delegation has been successful, in this silver jubilee year, in re-drawing the attention of ISA to PMN site in the Indian ocean.

The strides made by our nation towards achieving our goals and fulfilling our commitments to ISA were presented during a side event of the council. We achieved a good progress in Survey, Environmental studies, Technology development and Metallurgy too. A model depicting our mining machine found pride of place in the museum of ISA. We have been active in sharing our expertise and experience with other nations by conducting training programme and will continue to do so.

At this crucial stage of transition from exploration contracts to exploitation contracts we once again re-affirm our commitment and support to this unique and esteemed organisation. On behalf of our delegation, Ministry of Earth sciences and Government of India we wish ISA all the success in achieving the goal common heritage of mankind while maintaining the sustainability of the ocean resources. We wish all assembled here happy commemoration of the 25th year of ISA.

Thank you Madam President.