

International Seabed Authority

Assembly, 25th July 2019

Agenda Item 11: “Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Seabed Authority”

Statement on behalf of Italy

Madame President,
Secretary-General,
Excellences, distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends of the Authority and of Jamaica,

Italy aligns itself to the statement of the distinguished delegate of Germany on behalf of the Western European and other States Group.

It is for me more than an honour to address this Assembly in the 25th Anniversary of the International Seabed Authority.

Italy has been a committed member of this Organisation since its birth in 1994 and a member of Group A of the Council for six consecutive terms. We are proud of this membership not only because we recognise the importance of the Authority in the frame of global ocean governance, but also because we consider it as a beacon of advanced scientific research and technological development.

In these 25 years of history, the Authority ensured that the wealth of the seabeds be preserved against disordered exploitation and encouraged marine scientific research in the Area. Above all, it guaranteed its fundamental character of common heritage of humankind by keeping steadily on the forefront of negotiations that we all have a duty towards the future generations to ensure that the resources of the deep sea floors serve the sustainable development of all humanity.

Madam President,

Allow me to underline few aspects, which are all crucial to my Country.

Italy is a leading industrial economy with advanced technological achievements that require constant supply of strategic metal resources. Our economy needs a market working on sound principles of freedom of trade, transparency, open connectivity, and a regular flow of raw materials. However, we are strongly committed to the sustainable use of natural resources as well as the preservation of the ecosystems' integrity.

The system of regulations we are working hard to create through this Authority makes possible that these principles receive a balanced implementation by ensuring that the future exploitation in the Area takes place with minimal impact on the deep-sea environment. My Country, which, despite its limited dimensions, ranks eighth in the list of UNESCO World natural heritage sites, is well aware of the value of our habitats and the importance of involving the civil society in their preservation. That is why we support the importance of ensuring transparency and publicly available information on the activities of the Authority.

Madam President,

We are confident that the future 25 years of the International Seabed Authority will bring success to our joint efforts for a balanced system allowing for the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Area in a context of effective protection and preservation of our common environment.

Rest assured that Italy will continue its work and provide its utmost support towards these objectives.

Thank you!