

Statement by H.E. Mr. Yamazaki,
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Seabed Authority
on Agenda Item 9: Annual Report of the Secretary-General
at the Assembly of the twenty-fourth session
of the International Seabed Authority
Kingston, 23 July 2019

Thank you Madame President.

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere congratulations upon your election as the President of the Assembly of the 25th session of the International Seabed Authority. Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Presidents upon their elections.

I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality in hosting this session of the Authority.

At this juncture let me express sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Lodge, for his report which covers the activities undertaken by the Authority during the past year.

Madame President,

As a maritime state, Japan attaches great importance to the sound development of maritime order based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Japan strongly supports the role played by the Authority in the international management of the exploration for and exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area. Japan highly values the Authority's steady implementation of its mission in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, including the development of the draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area.

The Authority will convene an international conference in November this year in collaboration with the University of Virginia to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Authority. We commend the efforts of the Authority to make substantive intellectual contribution to addressing major challenges in deep sea mining. In addition, we are pleased to invite the Authority to the 7th International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) in Tokyo in August this year to give high publicity to the initiatives taken by the Authority for promoting the development of Africa's Blue Economy. Japan will welcome the enhanced visibility of activities of the Authority in the international arena as well as its proactive engagement with regional initiative and other international organizations on the occasion of celebrating the significant milestone of its 25th anniversary

Madame President,

Japan fully appreciates that the Authority has been steadily proceeding with the work towards the adoption of the Regulations on Exploitation. This will be a new step towards its principal aim of the exploitation of the resources in the Area, which is an important mission for the Authority and also dream of mankind for long. Japan will continue to constructively engage in the work of the Authority to formulate reasonable regulations on mineral exploitation, properly striking a balance between exploitation and environmental considerations.

Japan considers appropriate sharing of mineral resources in the Area as "the common heritage of mankind" presupposes the entry of ample number of companies to the deep-sea mining industry in the Area. Therefore, I would like to stress that the discussion on the draft Regulation of Exploitation needs to be made based on the accurate evaluation on its economic efficiency with the knowledge of experts, taking into consideration the technical and economic difficulties in exploiting mineral resources in the Area.

In 2017, one of the contractors, the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), sponsored by Japan has conducted the world's first-ever pilot test of excavating and ore lifting and environmental impact assessment under the sea within the Exclusive Economic Zone of Japan. The expertise gained by this pilot test, along with a variety of other advanced knowledge, was shared at a side event of the annual meeting of Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), held in Tokyo in October 2018. Japan would like to continue to share its expertise in deep seabed mining in the course of the drafting process of the

Regulations.

Madame President,

Japan has served as a Council member since the establishment of the Authority and has provided competent members to the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee without interval. A Japanese contractor, Deep Ocean Resources Development (DORD), offers training program starting this month for five trainees from Mexico, Cameroon, Fiji, Argentina and Nigeria. It is our hope that these trainees will take full advantage of the program and play central roles in ocean development in their home countries.

Japan fully recognizes the ever-increasing importance of ensuring intellectual, human and financial resources for the Authority, and will continue to support it to that end. In closing, I would like to reiterate Japan's continued commitment to the establishment and advancement of legal order in the deep seabed by working closely with the Authority.

Thank you Madame President.

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