



STATEMENT

BY

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AGENDA 7: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

**24TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY,
KINGSTON, JAMAICA**

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Thank you Mr. President.

My delegation joins other delegations who have taken the floor in congratulating you upon your election. We are confident of your abilities to steer this Session successfully and assure you of our support and cooperation.

We thank the Secretary General for his annual report covering the range of activities that the Authority has been undertaking over the last year and also offering us an overview of the work that lays ahead for the Secretariat. We acknowledge the Secretariat's efforts in carrying forward the Authority's mandate as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement on Part XI of the Convention.

Kenya aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group on this agenda item.

Mr. President,

My delegation notes the large number of contracts and plans of work for exploration in the Area that have been approved by the Authority. We are keenly following the process to develop and conceptualize the Regime to regulate the exploitation of the Area and its resources particularly the elaboration of the draft exploitation regulations and the operationalization of the Enterprise in compliance with UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. As a common heritage of mankind, the Area is *sui generis* or one of its kind in which the whole of humanity has a strategic interest in. We owe it to present and future generations to ensure that any activity in the Area benefits mankind as a whole with the utmost regard for the conservation of the marine environment and the deep sea bed in particular. Clearly, the Regime to govern the Area must operationalize the cardinal principle that any activity in the Area including deep seabed mining benefits mankind as a whole.

Mr. President,

We welcome the focus of the Authority in the promotion of marine scientific research in the Area especially with emphasis on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area. We encourage this focus on marine scientific research including through collaboration and cooperation with relevant international partners for the benefit of mankind as a whole. This is due to our

limited knowledge of the marine environment in general and the deep seabed in particular. My delegation encourages the Secretariat to support the participation of scientists and personnel from developing countries including African countries in marine scientific research programs and offer them opportunities to participate in training, technical assistance, and scientific exchange and cooperation programs to strengthen and develop their knowledge, capacity and technical expertise in deep sea research and technology. My delegation also looks forward to more developing countries including African countries participating in the contractor training program and being offered training opportunities provided and funded by contractors as part of their legal obligation to explore the Area.

In this regard, we welcome the **Secretary General's Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research** launched in November last year and warmly congratulate Dr. Diva Amon from Trinidad & Tobago for winning the first Award. We wish Dr. Diva Amon all the very best in her career. We hope that this initiative of the Secretary General in awarding excellence in deep-sea research will inspire and motivate young scientists from all over the world particularly from developing countries to undertake marine scientific research for the benefit of us all.

Mr. President,

As mentioned yesterday by the Secretary General and today by the representative of the African Group, Kenya will be hosting a High Level **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference** in Nairobi from 26th to 28th November this year. Kenya has offered to host this first Blue Economy international conference in Africa outside the United Nations framework to provide a high level forum to advance the global conversation on the sustainable development of the Blue Economy. The theme of the Conference is *"To deliver on the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by transitioning to a blue economy that is inclusive, sustainable and prosperous."* The Conference will focus on new technologies and innovation as well as the challenges, potential opportunities, priorities and partnerships. Participants from around the world will come together to share ideas on how to harness the potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all and leverage scientific advances and innovations to build prosperity for present and future generations.

The hosting of the Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi demonstrates Kenya's commitment to the sustainable development of the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers. It also seeks to advance national aspirations outlined in the **Big Four Agenda** of the Government of the Republic of Kenya that aims to enhance food security, provide affordable housing, boost manufacturing and provide universal health care for our people.

We welcome the Secretary General and also delegations to Nairobi this November to participate in the **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference**.

Mr. President,

My delegation notes the cost saving measures by the Secretariat which have resulted in savings in the financial resources of the Authority. We encourage the Secretariat to explore other areas that have the potential for saving on costs and expenses. We are encouraged by the voluntary contributions that continue to be made to the Voluntary Trust Fund for members of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee and the Voluntary Trust Fund for members of the Council to financially support the participation of members from developing countries in the work of these organs of the Authority. Such contributions ensure that the full membership of these organs do actually participate and contribute to the policy and decision making processes as envisaged in UNCLOS. We also welcome proposals to improve the working methods of the policy making organs with a view to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of the mandate entrusted to the Authority.

Mr. President,

As I conclude, my delegation appreciates the traditional and warm hospitality of our hosts, the Government of Jamaica.

I thank you.