



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BARON DIVAVESI WAQA OF NAURU , M.P. ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY, THURSDAY 25TH JULY, 2019.

Madam President

Your Excellency

Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica,

Secretary General Michael Lodge,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies & Gentleman

I wish to extend my warm congratulations to the Secretary General and his staff, and to the Assembly on the auspicious occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the International Seabed Authority.

Twenty-five years ago, the international community, in an unparalleled consensus, steered the world towards an era of effective management and regulation of the resources of the ocean, the magnitude of which was unparalleled in modern history.

This was achieved at a time of sweeping political and economic changes. It is noteworthy that the interests and special needs of developing countries was deemed of sufficient importance to be taken

into consideration and is now an accepted feature of the Law of the Sea Convention.

It is a historical time with the development of two significant international instruments currently underway; the regulations for the exploitation of seabed mineral resources that form part of the International Seabed Authority's mining code, and the agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). It is indeed an exciting time in ocean governance.

The credibility of the Authority depends very much on the confidence it generates among its members as well as among those willing to work with it in the development of the common heritage resources.

Nauru, like other Small Island Developing States has a strong affinity with the ocean. As a sponsoring state, Nauru has a special interest in the conclusion and adoption of the draft exploitation regulations and is a keen participant in this process.

The development of the mining code and the work of the authority, particularly in regard to capacity building is to be commended.

You have reached a milestone in your work. Nauru urges member states to finalise the exploitation regulations as soon as practicable. The regulations must be in harmony with the Convention on the Law of the Sea. They must balance commercially viable mining of the seabed with protection of the ocean ecology for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

From its infancy, the International Seabed Authority has grown and matured as a well-respected international organization. I wish to pay tribute to the former and current Secretaries General of the Authority, Ambassador Satya Nandan (Fiji), Ambassador Nii Odunton (Ghana) and Mr Michael Lodge, who have led the Authority to its current standing.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the Government of Jamaica for its unwavering support of the International Seabed Authority. The fruits of that support are evident today.

Finally, I wish the Authority continued success in the future as it enters the next 25 years of its development. Thank you Madam, President.

