

Madam President,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

My delegation will offer just a few remarks in a national capacity on this occasion of the 25th anniversary of the International Seabed Authority.

Madam President, in our view, the story of the Authority is that of an intergenerational endeavour.

The drafters of the Montego Bay Convention gave us the framework under which all activities in the ocean must be carried out. Part XI of the Convention, and the Part XI Agreement, charted a course for our management of activities in the Area, based on a vision of shared ownership and management of the Area and its resources.

We remain charged with delivering that vision, for the benefit of all people, and all who will come after us.

Over the last 25 years, our knowledge and understanding of the marine environment has grown enormously. In that time, we have made significant decisions and seen exploration activities begin.

However, the most significant decisions and activities are still ahead of us, and it is our duty as we approach these, to recall just how much we are yet to learn about the marine environment. A robust mining code will ensure that we meet our legal obligations, including the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Madam President, I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard over the last 25 years to contribute to the work of the Authority, including those in the Secretariat, the Council and its Commissions, observers, and member state delegations.

Thank you.