



**NIGERIA'S COUNTRY STATEMENT  
DELIVERED BY THE LEADER OF NIGERIA'S  
DELEGATION – MRS. STELLA ANUKAM,  
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**AT THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY (ISA),  
HELD IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA.**

**22<sup>ND</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

**Protocol**

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**Madam President**

Since this is the first time Nigeria is taking the floor on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of this Assembly, Nigeria wishes to congratulate the President and other members of the bureau on your elections to lead the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly. Nigeria is confident that under your Presidency, the 25<sup>th</sup> Session will be conducted successfully. Nigeria promises to work with you Madam President and the bureau in ensuring the success of this Session. Nigeria wishes you all a successful tenure. My Delegation expresses its appreciation to the People of Jamaica for their warm reception and hospitality since our arrival in this beautiful country.

While thanking the Secretary-General for his Annual Report delivered pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article 166 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Nigeria wishes to support the Strategic Plan of the Authority for the period 2019-2023.

Since this year's session coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Authority, Nigeria joins the rest of the world in congratulating the Authority. Nigeria commends the efforts of State Parties, past and present leaders of the Authority, including its staff members for steering the Authority to its present enviable position.

### **Madam President**

The International Seabed Authority is one of the three main organs established pursuant to the provisions of the UNCLOS; it plays an important role in the implementation of UNCLOS and in regulating activities in the 'Area', which resources are common heritage of Mankind. Hence Nigeria will continue to play its part effectively in all the activities of the Authority.

## **Madam President**

My Delegation notes and welcome the various capacity building and training embarked on by the Authority. Also, of importance and commendation, is the Authority Data Management Strategy and improved communication outreach and website.

Nigeria is confident that the Draft Exploitation Regulations when adopted will safeguard the sustainability and health of the oceans, when exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area commences. It is hoped that it will enhance the sustainability and effective use of the resources in the “Area”.

No doubt Madam President, Nigeria fully supports the Draft Exploitation Regulations, and wishes to state that it should be implemented in its entirety, after the necessary negotiations have been concluded.

## **Madam President**

Nigeria takes note of ISA's participation in the development of an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdictions is an important international legally binding instrument developed pursuant to UNCLOS. The legal instrument when fully operationalized will ensure the maintenance of health of the oceans, particularly in the areas beyond national jurisdictions. Nigeria pledges its support to all contributory efforts and activities of ISA in the process of finalizing and adopting this legally binding instrument.

## **Madam President**

At this juncture, Nigeria salutes the African Group for the giant and bold strides it is taking to project, propagate and defend African interests. Nigeria expresses commitment to fully align itself with all the submissions made by the African Group, especially with regards to the

operationalization of the Enterprise. Nigeria undertakes to fully cooperate and work with you as you continue in your efforts to project African interests.

### **Madam President**

It must be stated that expectations of States are very high regarding the realization of benefits that would necessarily accrue when actual mining in the “Area” commences.

Nigeria wishes to emphasize the fact that the principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind should be the overarching basis of application of the Regulations on Exploitation of Resources in the Area and should therefore be more clearly reflected in the body/operative parts of the draft Regulations.

Nigeria also wishes to remind the Authority of its earlier commitment to ensure that deep seabed mining in the

Area will occur, only if it can be demonstrably shown to be beneficial to mankind.

Nigeria therefore urges the Authority to do all the needful to ensure that mining activities begin only when it is demonstrably proven that such activities will be beneficial to the mankind.

In this regard, Nigeria wishes to reiterate the submission of the African Group on the operationalization of the Enterprise, which is an important manifestation of the principle of the ‘Common Heritage of Mankind’.

Nigeria urges the Authority to expedite actions leading to the operationalization of the Enterprise which is the organ of the ISA that will be charged with the mandate of overseeing all Mining activities in the Area.

**Madam President and fellow delegates**

I thank you all for your kind attention and wish you a fruitful Session.

**22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019**