



**CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT  
DELIVERED BY NIGERIA PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
SEABED AUTHORITY, HER EXCELLENCY, MRS.  
JANET OMOLEEGHO OLISA,  
ON THE 25TH SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATIVE SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY,  
HELD IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA.**

**25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

## Protocol

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Nigeria wishes to join other State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in congratulating the International Seabed Authority on this special anniversary celebration of the entry into force of UNCLOS and the establishment of the Authority. Nigeria recalls that the Authority was established 25 years ago pursuant to UNCLOS obtaining the number of ratifications required for its operationalization in 1994.

The Authority has made significant progress and undoubtedly succeeded in stabilizing activities and ensuring maintenance of the rule of law in the Area.

Nigeria intend to acknowledge, that the Authority is on the right path of progressively bringing into reality the purpose of its establishment, which is the management of the prospecting, exploration and exploitation activities of the resources of the Area for the benefit of the mankind. With the level already attained in having a Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2023, adopted by

the Assembly at its 24<sup>th</sup> Session on 26 July 2018, and in the progress already made regarding the draft Exploitation Regulations and the High Level Action Plan 2019 – 2023, it is obvious that if the present momentum is sustained, the long awaited exploitation of the resources of the Area will soon be a reality.

Since this is not an occasion for long speeches, Nigeria wishes to encourage the Authority to advance rapidly, irrespective of the challenges being faced, especially in your efforts to develop encompassing and generally acceptable Exploitation Regulations that will govern activities in the Area. The challenges are not unexpected judging from experience of developing multilateral instruments. It is painstaking and requires hard work, determination and patience. Nigeria urges you to imbibe these qualities in carrying on your mandate as contained in UNCLOS. Whilst congratulating you again, please be assured of Nigeria's unwavering support and cooperation at all times.

I thank you.