



PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

Special Commemorative Session: 25th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of
UNCLOS and the Establishment of the ISA

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25th Session of the International Seabed Authority (Assembly)
25 July 2019
Kingston, Jamaica

Thank you Madame President.

We thank our esteemed guests led by **The Most Honorable Mr. Andrew Michael Holness**, Prime Minister of Jamaica, for joining us today in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the establishment of the International Seabed Authority.

We align ourselves with the Statement of the Asia-Pacific Group delivered by the Republic of Korea.

The Philippines was one of the original signatories of UNCLOS in 1982, and we ratified it within a quick period of two (2) years. Ten years later, with the entry into force of the Convention in 1994, we were among

the first to sign the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention, with ratification in 1997.

Over these past 25 years, we have strongly supported and upheld the Convention because in being a “constitution of the oceans” and in providing a comprehensive legal regime for the oceans and the seas, it affirms the rule of law in maritime space. Rule of law must be adhered to by all States Parties in the belief that no one can thrive nor survive for long in anarchy.

The International Seabed Authority is an integral part of that regime. Its role in upholding the rule of law is most critical now as we are on the brink of adopting regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. As we cross this frontier, we reiterate the continuing importance of upholding the principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind. We must also ensure that we proceed within the framework of sustainable development and its social, economic and environmental pillars. It is imperative that the concerns and capacity needs of developing countries remain paramount, and that we ensure their effective participation and access to benefits in any exploitation framework.

In closing, Madame President, the Philippines reaffirms its enduring commitment to the International Seabed Authority and expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretariat, led by Secretary General Mr. Michael Lodge.

Thank you.