

Good morning, Madam President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates.

First of all, I would like to express my delegation's congratulation and delight to see Madam President presiding this important Assembly session.

With your indulgence, my delegation would like to add, as honorable Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, mentioned, this year marks the 55th Anniversary of the independence of Jamaica and also, the 55th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Republic of Korea and Jamaica. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express congratulation on these two meaningful anniversaries.

Also, the Korean delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to Secretary General Michael W. Lodge and the Secretariat for excellent preparation for this Session.

Madam President,

The report on the periodic review of the International Seabed Authority pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is of great significance as it is the first report of a comprehensive and systematic review of the international regime of the Area and its resources.

First of all, we would like to commend Mr. Helmut Tuerk, Chairman of the Review Committee, for preparing this report.

My delegation would like to comment on several items of recommendations.

With regard to recommendation 2, my delegation fully supports the Secretary-General's plan to undertake comparative study before the end of 2018, with a view to deriving common elements from the existing national legislation.

Regarding recommendation 3, continued investment in better data management and data-sharing mechanisms is an important matter. In this vein, it is meaningful that the ISA held a meeting of contractors in Kingston, Jamaica in June 2017.

On recommendation 8, agreed performance standards are important that such standards will contribute to more effective and environmentally sound technologies in deep-sea mining. In this regard, my delegation would like to request the Secretary-General to prepare and present a specific plan to discuss this important task.

Recommendation 10 regarding Council meeting schedule should be considered in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. My delegation is of the view

that workload and current schedule of the Council, as well as cost-effectiveness of such adjustment should be thoroughly and carefully considered.

On Recommendations 11 and 13, my delegation fully supports the Secretary General's relevant comment and his suggested plan to restructure the secretariat.

With Regard to recommendation 14, my delegation is in full support to set up working groups with particular areas of expertise including environmental issues. Considering that there are now three environmental experts of the Legal and Technical Commission, it could be considered to first recommend relevant experts on environment for future vacancy in the Legal and Technical Commission.

On recommendation 18, my delegation welcomes that Secretary-General would submit the draft Strategic Plan to the Assembly in 2018.

In conclusion, my delegation considers that the Article 154 Review Report is one of the most important work for the development of Deep Sea mineral resources. We are confident that with cooperative and constructive contributions of member States, as well as observers, this process will lead to positive and continued progress in development and management of deep-sea mineral resources.

Madam President,

The Korean delegation would like to express our warm and continued support for the work of the Authority and, in keeping this willingness, to seek various means by which to further collaborate and cooperate with the Authority.

Thank you, Madam President.
