

ROMANIA

Madam President,

Thank you for giving me the floor and I would also like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Assembly, at this special moment of the 25th Anniversary of the Authority.

I wish to thank the Secretary General for presenting and putting forward this Report.

I would like to briefly refer to the 5th section of the Report concerning the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority that entered into force in March 2003.

This protocol offers essential protection to the representatives of the members of the Authority, the officials and the experts on mission for the authority, in order to properly exercise their functions. As a sign of our recognition of the importance of the work that they undertake, Romania has acceded to the Protocol on the 14th of June 2018. We appreciate seeing that reflected in the Report and we encourage states that haven't done so yet to become parties to the Protocol.

Before concluding my remarks allow me to express Romania's appreciation for the work and the important role of the Authority in strengthening the regulatory framework for activities in the Area and in protecting the marine environment from negative effects which may arise from activities in the area.

I thank you, Madam President.