

**Statement by H.E. Mr.Masanori Nakano,
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Seabed Authority
on Agenda Item 8: Annual Report of the Secretary-General
at the Assembly of the twenty-third session
of the International Seabed Authority
Kingston, 15 August 2017**

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere congratulations again upon your election as the President of the Assembly of the 23rd session of the International Seabed Authority. I also would like to congratulate the Vice-Presidents upon their elections.

I would like to express our profound appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality in hosting this session of the Authority.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Lodge, for his first report which covers the activities undertaken by the Authority during the past year.

Mr. President,

As a maritime state, Japan attaches great importance to the sound development of maritime order based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We strongly support the role played by the Authority in the international management of the exploration for and exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area. Japan highly values the Authority's steady implementation of its mission in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, including the development of a mineral exploitation code and a periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of UNCLOS.

Furthermore, Japan fully appreciates that the Authority has been steadily proceeding with the work towards the adoption of the Exploitation Code, which will be a new step towards its principal aim of the exploitation of the resources in the Area. Japan will continue to constructively engage in the work of the Authority to formulate sensible regulations on mineral exploitation, with a good balance of considerations for exploration and the environment.

The Japanese Government as a whole is making efforts to develop the environmental impact assessment technology for ocean resources exploitation. In the side event held last week, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies(NIES) presented the technologies related to environmental impact assessment. These technologies are low-cost and highly efficient. We believe that they are also useful for the developing countries. Japan would like to contribute to the development of mineral resources in the Area by the entire international community through these technologies.

Mr. President,

Turning to the financial issue, particularly, contributions by State Parties, although the situation is improving, some State Parties were still in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions according to the report of the Secretary-General. I wish to take this opportunity to encourage the States Parties concerned to fulfill their obligations by duly making their financial contributions.

Mr. President,

Japan's contractor, Deep Ocean Resources Development CO., LTD.(DORD), whose contract for exploration was approved for extension last year, will invite 10 trainees within the extension period of 5 years. In addition, as in the past two years, the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) will invite 4 trainees for over a month to participate in training programme which includes an 'at-sea' training between May and June, 2018. Japan hopes that these trainees will take full advantage of the training programme and play active roles in maritime affairs in their home countries.

Japan has served as a Council member since the establishment of the Authority. It has contributed as its largest financial contributor and through the consistent provision of competent members to the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee.

Japan will continue to support the Authority, whose importance is ever increasing in terms of human and financial resources. In closing, I would like to reiterate Japan's continued commitment to the establishment and advancement of legal order in the Area through the Authority.

(END)