

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement of the Kingdom of Thailand on Agenda Item 10
Implementation of the strategic plan of the International Seabed
Authority for the period 2019-2023, at the meeting of the Assembly of
the 25th Session of the International Seabed Authority, Kingston,
Jamaica, 24 July 2019**

Madam President,

1. Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, I wish to [join previous speakers in extending] extend our sincere congratulations upon your election as the President of the Assembly at the twenty-fifth session of the International Seabed Authority. We are confident that under your skillful and able leadership, the meeting of the Assembly will have a successful conclusion. We would also like to express our appreciation to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee for their great efforts to improve the work of the Authority.

2. Most importantly, my delegation wishes to [join others in commemorating] commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the establishment of the Authority. The Authority has been thus far playing a critical role to promote not only the orderly, safe and responsible management and development of the resources of the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, but also to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment in accordance with the agreed international principles and objectives including the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for the sustainable development.

Madam. President,

3. As we are at the crucial juncture from the exploration to the exploitation phrase, twenty-five years after the establishment of the Authority, it is timely to review and make assessment toward lessons learned and challenges, as well as to explore ways forward in light of the evolution of the activities in the Authority. In this regard, my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to welcome the draft high-level action plan and the draft performance indicators which will serve the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019-2023.

4. In light of the high-level action plan presented before the Assembly, my delegation wishes to make the following observations. In general, we are pleased with the high-level action plan and related outputs and to see that some of them have already been implemented.

5. Specifically, under **Strategic direction 1: Realize the role of the Authority in a global context**, my delegation wishes to place an emphasis on the work done under “**Item 1.5.1: Promote and strengthen dialogue among States, relevant international organizations and stakeholders to foster the use of practical tools for mutual ‘reasonable regard’ in order to accommodate activities in the Area and other activities in the marine environment.**” Thailand co-hosted the Second Workshop on Deep Seabed Mining and Submarine Cables with the main topic of “Developing practical options for the implementation of the due regard and reasonable regard obligations under UNCLOS,” with the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), and the ISA, between 29-30 October 2018 in Bangkok. The Workshop brought together representatives from the submarine cable industry, contractors with the Authority, as well as delegates from relevant international organizations, and representatives from sponsoring States. It successfully provided the platform to foster the exchange of information between cable operators and mining contractors, the factual and practical information to enhance understanding and maximize options for realizing reasonable and due regard at practical level. To this end, we believe that this Workshop has significantly provided the way forward to develop practical tools to facilitate the implementation of “reasonable regard” obligations under UNCLOS.

6. Regarding the high-level actions in **Strategic direction 2: Strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area**, we would like to express our appreciation, especially to the Council and the Legal and Technical Commission, on their continuous efforts contributing to the advancement of the draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area. It is, as reflected in the high-level actions, of fundamental importance for the Authority to adopt and uniformly apply rules, regulation and procedures to organize and carry out activities in the Area in accordance with the principle of the common heritage of mankind.

Madam President,

7. With respect to **Strategic direction 4: Promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area**, this issue is of particular importance to developing countries, including Thailand, in terms of scientific and technological advancement. We, therefore, take note with appreciation on the proposed high-level actions reflected on the high-level action plan, which aim to promote and conduct the marine scientific research in the Area to the dissemination of the research result and analysis for the benefit of all State Parties, particularly developing countries. At the regional level, Thailand, as the Chair of ASEAN this year, hosted the 34th ASEAN Summit on 22-23 June 2019, in which ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Notably, one of its objectives is to promote maritime cooperation by further enhancement of technical cooperation in maritime science collaboration,

research and development, sharing of experiences and best practices on maritime and ocean-related issues.

8. We would like to [join previous speakers in commending] commend the Authority on the works relating to **Strategic direction 5: Build capacity for developing States**. In accordance with the principle of common heritage of mankind, my delegation strongly supports the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from the developing countries to participate in the marine scientific research programs. We are grateful for the valuable opportunities continuously provided for the trainees from developing countries, including Thailand, to participate in the contractor training program As noted by the report of the Secretary-General, approximately 270 additional training places will be made available by contractors between 2019 and 2023. We, therefore, believe that the capacity of developing countries can be enhanced. This will also **ensure the fully integrated participation by developing States** to the implementation of the regime for the Area, in line with **Strategic direction 6**.

9. **Last but not least**, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Jamaica for the generosity as the host country of the Authority. We also thank the Government and the people of Jamaica for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation during this session of the Authority.

Thank you Madam. President
