

## **UK comment on the 25th Anniversary.**

Let me first express my support for the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Germany on behalf of the Western European and Others Group and the statement to be delivered by the distinguished representative of the EU on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The ocean integrates the United Kingdom into a global economy underpinned by sea-borne trade and the flow of information over a network of undersea cables. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, one of diplomacy's greatest achievements, enables this vital activity for our collective prosperity, security and shared environment. It truly is a universal and unified Constitution for the Ocean, whose integrity must be maintained for the common interest of all. It is in this context that the International Seabed Authority, as one of the institutions established by the Convention, has played its part in fulfilling the promise of the Convention to govern activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind.

Over the past 25 years, the Authority has taken forward the mandate entrusted to it by States, providing clear regulations for exploration activities in the Area, whilst promoting and encouraging the marine scientific research that is vital to our understanding of these dark remote environments. It has also implemented its obligations with respect to capacity building.

The next 25 years will present many challenges for the work of the Authority and States Parties. We believe that the spirit of cooperation and consensus that has been the hallmark of the work of this organisation will enable us to respond to those challenges and to allow the adoption of transparent, science-based and environmentally sound deep-sea mining regulations, supported by robust Standards and Guidelines and scientifically sound Regional Environmental Management Plans, and ensure that the Authority continues to administer the resources of the Area for the benefit of humankind.

The United Kingdom will continue to provide our full support to the Authority as we work together to fulfil the mandate granted to it by the Montego Bay Convention.