

Indian Intervention on the Agenda Item 9

Thank you Mr. President

Mr. President, Secretary General and the distinguished delegates.

At the outset our delegation compliments and thanks the Secretary General for coming out with a comprehensive Annual Report. We record our appreciation to the secretariat for their support. We note that it has been prepared in two parts i.e. 'Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority under article 166, paragraph 4', and "Ensuring the sustainable management and stewardship of the deep seabed and its resources for the benefit of humankind".

The first part also covered the deliberations held during 26th session and the road map for the future. The second and the more attractive part gives an overview of the activities of the Authority since July 2021 and an update on the status of implementation of the strategic directions of the Authority as set out in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

We compliment the Secretary General and the secretariat for the format and quality of the publication. We note that the 100 page documents concentrated on covering more issues than providing the details. It is understandable and the details could be obtained going into the references.

It is heartening to note that the authority's contribution to 12 out of 17 SDGs has been well recognised at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. It was India's privilege to support the engagement of ISA in the 2022 UN Ocean Conference – in sponsoring high-level event held on 29-June-2022 to discuss "Ensuring the stewardship of seabed mineral resources and the protection of the marine environment of the Area for the benefit of humankind" and a side-event "Enhancing *scientific* cooperation in support of regional environmental management planning in the international seabed area.

About the report on development of REMPS, we are happy to note the mention of upcoming work for Indian Ocean REMP. We are happy to inform this august assembly that the first ever workshop for the REMPS for the Indian Ocean Region is most likely to be held in Chennai, India during the first half of 2023.

The capacity building initiative of the authority is praiseworthy and we are happy to note that Dr. Ranju Radhakrishnan, was the successful applicant from India to undertake post-doc fellowship of ISA/IFREMER-France.

We would have been happier if more details were given in the report about the training imparted by India to the selected candidates of ISA. After many postponements, it was held online owing the pandemic situation. Nevertheless it was very well appreciated by the participants

We appreciate that a chapter, of course a short one, was about the 'Commit to transparency'. It explained how the 'Stakeholder engagement' was carried out and presented the details on 'Public information and outreach'. This showed the commitment of the authority on ensuring transparency of its endeavours.

Over all, together these two reports gave an authentic account of the work that was carried out by the Authority during these trying times. We thank all involved for their efforts. We once again reiterate our commitment and support to the International Sea Bed Authority in all its endeavours

Thank you Mr. President for the floor.