

International Seabed Authority – 27th Session

Assembly Meeting Day 2 – 02/08/22

Item 9: Annual Report of the Secretary General

Speaker: Mr. Raymond Mohammed

Intervention Notes

Thank you Mr. Acting President

1. As this is the first time Fiji is making an intervention, I would like to express commendation for the people of Jamaica as this proud island nation commemorates 60 years of independence.
2. We also extend our appreciation to Ambassador Wibaux of France for his excellent presidency over the last Session and also thank Ambassador Oliver Guyonvarch for presiding as Temporary President at the opening of this Session.
3. My delegation also takes this opportunity to thank the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh for his kind words and nomination and we extend our gratitude to the Asia-Pacific Group for their full trust in Fiji and endorsement of Fiji's nomination for the Assembly President as well as the congratulatory remarks of esteemed delegates. We also congratulate you Mr. Acting President on your designation in presiding over this Session as well as congratulate the Bureau members on their election. We are not oblivious to the commitment needed for such a momentous task and I affirm my delegation's full support in your presiding of this Session.
4. We echo commemorative comments by distinguished delegates pertaining to the 40th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS – deemed as the Constitution of the Seas and I would like to share part of remarks made by H.E. Mr Abdullah Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly on 29 April 2022 and I quote "UNCLOS is perhaps one of

the most successful outcomes of rules-based multilateralism – culminating in a legally-binding document for our Ocean” unquote.

5. On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank the Secretary – General and the Secretariat for their diligent preparations for the twenty-seventh Session and thank the team of interpreters, conference officers and support staff for their hard work during this session.
6. In terms of this intervention, I will be very brief. We thank the Secretary General for the tabling of the 2022 Annual report and again extend our appreciation for the Authority's commitment in building capacity for developing States, more specifically for Small Island States, as mandated under UNCLOS.
7. In saying that, and with reference to the High-level Action Plan for 2019-2023 and pursuant to the ISA MSR Action Plan, my delegation encourages the Authority to revisit or strengthen its partnership with the Pacific Community, formerly known as the South Pacific Commission or SPC, and build on the MOU signed by the two organisations in 2015 for the provision of technical assistance for Pacific SIDS pertaining to institutional strengthening including capacity building in the governance of deep sea mineral resources.

Thank You Mr. Acting President