

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Fujiwara Masaya,  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the International Seabed Authority  
on Agenda Item 9: Annual Report of the Secretary-General  
at the Assembly of the Twenty-Seventh Session  
of the International Seabed Authority  
Kingston, 2 August 2022**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan would like to express its sincere appreciation to Secretary-General Michael Lodge for his comprehensive report covering the wide range of activities undertaken by the Authority over the past year.

Similarly, I would like to express the Government of Japan's deep appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality in hosting this session of the Authority.

Despite the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, the Authority has made steady progress in its work, such as the consideration and endorsement of the Road map for the work on the draft exploitation regulations in 2022, immediately followed by the advancement of consideration of the regulations at the Council. I wish to thank Secretary-General Lodge and the staff of the Authority for their ongoing efforts.

Mr. President,

The Area is uncharted water for humankind. The exploitation of mineral resources on the deep-sea floor—thousands of meters below the surface of the ocean—poses great technical and economic challenges. In addition, the unique environment of the deep sea is

extremely fragile, and once destroyed it takes a long time to recover. In light of these considerations, regulations governing the exploitation of mineral resources and the protection of the marine environment are of the utmost importance.

It is essential to develop robust, high-quality rules that contribute to both the sound exploitation and the protection of the marine environment. In so doing, we must seek the consensus of all parties concerned and make every effort to advance substantive discussions. This is easy to say but difficult to do. In fact, it is quite challenging, and there is a considerable amount of work ahead. Nevertheless, I am confident that Member States, contractors, scientists, and observers can and will work together under the leadership of Secretary-General Lodge. Japan will continue to contribute to the work of the Authority, especially in the course of the drafting process of the Regulations, by sharing its technical expertise backed by over 40 years of experience in seabed activities.

In closing, we would like to reiterate Japan's full recognition of the ever-increasing importance of promoting deep seabed mining that will benefit humankind as a whole and the fundamental role of the Authority in support of such deep seabed mining. Japan remains committed to working closely with the Authority and all Member States towards advancing a legal order in the ocean.

I thank you.

//END.