

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ISA  
SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERED BY HON. UDI ODUM,  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

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*Acting President,*

*Secretary - General of the ISA,*

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

**Mr. President,**

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the President of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly. I would like to assure you of my delegation's readiness to avail your leadership all necessary cooperation needed to fulfil your mandate.

2. My delegation would like to commend the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the ISA for the great efforts in compiling this report. I wish to highlight some of the areas and programmes captured in the Secretary-General's report which are of interest to my delegation.

**Mr. President,**

3. My delegation acknowledges the Secretary-General's commitment in support of the advancement of women empowerment and leadership in ocean governance affairs with a particular interest in the notable progress made in several initiatives which significantly contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. We also wish to commend the Secretariat for the Deep-Diploma Sea webinar series organised by the ISA Secretariat for diplomats and UN senior representatives to raise awareness on the role, mandate and work of the International Seabed Authority. We fully recognise the unique and central role played by the International Seabed Authority in global ocean governance including, through its contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals and the fact that already, it contributes to 12 of the 17 Sustainable Goals.

**Mr. President,**

4. My delegation wishes to underscore the importance of strategic partnerships towards transformative actions in support of women empowerment and leadership in marine scientific research, especially in technical and emerging fields of ocean science and engineering such as deep-sea research. My delegation wishes to

express its appreciation to the organisation for its commitment towards ensuring that women scientists from developing States, especially those from least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, can have the opportunity to attain leadership positions. My delegation will collaborate with the International Seabed Authority on the Women in Deep-Sea Research (WIDSR) project. It is in this regard that I announce Dr. Maureen Tamuno's willingness to become a member of the International Gender Champion of the Impact Group on Research and Oceans for Women (IGROW).

**Mr. President,**

5. I wish to express my appreciation to the International Seabed Authority for collaborating with the African Union to launch the voluntary commitment to foster cooperation and promote the sustainable development of Africa's Deep Seabed Resources (ADSR) project, in support of Africa's Blue Economy.

6. On this note, I commend the Secretary-General and members of the ISA Secretariat for working tirelessly to raise awareness on the importance and opportunities associated with the development of Africa's continental shelf, as well as the increased participation

of African citizens in exploration activities undertaken in international seabed areas through the Africa's Deep Seabed Resources project.

7. In this regard, I wish to inform you that Nigeria is hosting the fourth sub-regional workshop of the Africa's Deep Seabed Resources project. The Workshop will be held in Abuja from the 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. It is organised by the Authority, in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria, with the support of the African Union and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

**Mr. President,**

8. On a final note, my delegation appreciates the great work done by the Secretary-General and his team in the compilation of this report. Allow me at this juncture to reaffirm our readiness and full engagement to support the work of the Authority and relevant bodies specifically in relation to the completion of relevant regulatory frameworks, in a timely manner.

9. I thank you!

