

**OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. MAUREEN TAMUNO (PhD), NIGERIA'S  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL SEABED  
AUTHORITY AND HIGH COMMISSIONER TO JAMAICA**

Your Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osibajo, SAN, GCON, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of ISA, Mr. Michael Lodge,

The Honourable Minister of Transportation, Hon. Mu'azu Jaji Sambo,

The Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade and Mining at the African Union Commission, His Excellency Albert Muchanga,

Fellow Permanent Representatives,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a great honour for me to deliver these opening remarks at this important workshop of the Fourth Africa's Deep Seabed Resources project organized by the International Seabed Authority in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the African Union.

2. Nigeria is particularly honoured to serve as the Vice-President of Council and Assembly at the 26th Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and currently as the facilitator of the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement (ICE).

3. Permit me to use this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General, his team and members of the ISA Council for their outstanding support and cooperation in ensuring that my tenure as the Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement (ICE) is successful. I also want to use this opportunity to thank the Coordinator and members of the African Group for their invaluable cooperation.

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

4. Our gathering here is to explore how the African continent can fully benefit from the sustainable development of Africa's blue economies through the development of deep seabed minerals. Without doubt, the potential benefits derivable from the sustainable development of deep seabed resources could be a major driver for the development of Africa's economies and growth.

5. I am confident that this workshop will provide an enormous opportunity for building on past efforts and for sharing best practices and knowledge exchange on the work of ISA including its contributions to building the capacity of African States, content and achievements of UNCLOS and its significance for Africa's Mining aspirations and contribution of deep-seabed exploration and exploitation to the development of Africa's Blue Economy.

6. As we are aware that deep seabed mining is relatively a new terrain, it is in this regard, that this workshop is expected to raise awareness among African States about the importance and opportunities associated with the development of Africa's continental shelf. Furthermore, it is expected to increase stakeholders understanding of the regulatory processes related to deep-seabed mineral resources exploration and exploitation including, environmental management.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

7. As we continue in our collective efforts to finalise the draft regulations for deep seabed mining in the international seabed area, may I appeal that we remain committed to the principle of protecting the common heritage of mankind and ensure the equitable sharing of benefits to impact the lives of the common man.

8. For us in Nigeria, we look forward to further collaborations with the International Seabed Authority, African Union and international partners for continued capacity-building programmes

9. I wish you fruitful deliberations during the break-out sessions and panel discussions.