

Agenda item 8 – Report of the Secretary General

Statement of H.E. Ambassador Dwight C.R. Gardiner, Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the ISA

Mr. President, as this is the first time that Antigua & Barbuda has taken the floor at this meeting, I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election at this 28th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority and further extend our support for your leadership and dedication in the conduct and fruitful conclusion of this meeting. I also extend our appreciation to our Caribbean Colleague, Jamaica for their unfailing hospitality as host country of the Authority.

Mr. President, this delegation would like to thank the Secretary General for his very comprehensive and informative report on the progress of the organization over the last year. We unequivocally express our appreciation for the substantial and considerable progress that is underway. My delegation supports the continued momentum we have towards fulfilling the goals of the Authority. It is only through our joint support that we can continue to move forward together.

Mr. President, concerning the SG's report on the Implementation of the Action Plan This delegation lends its support to the research priorities outlined in the report and in particular would draw attention to research priority 6. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), capacity building initiatives are one of our priorities. We encourage the SG to continue to reach out to the global scientific community and where possible engage research institutions in SIDS.

Mr President, this delegation would also like to thank the Member States for their contributions to the ISA Partnership Fund. The Fund is a crucial step towards the achieving the shared goals of this body and we encourage other Member States that are able, to reach out to the Secretariat and discuss donations to the Fund.

Mr. President, as always, significant work remains to be done in advancing to the ultimate goals of the Authority and Antigua & Barbuda would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our full support to the work of the Authority and we will continue our contribution to that work.

Thank you Mr. President.