



**Statement by
Ambassador Arrmanatha C. Nasir
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Indonesia to the International Seabed Authority**

**at
the 28th Session of the Assembly of the
International Seabed Authority**

***Agenda Item 8:
Annual report of the Secretary-General under
article 166, paragraph 4, of the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea***

Kingston, Jamaica, 25 July 2023

**Mr. President,
Secretary General,**

1. Indonesia **congratulates** you Mr. President, on your election as the President of the **28th Session of the Assembly**.
2. We express **our appreciation to the Secretary-General** for the **presentation of his annual report**.
3. We also thank the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their continued substantive and logistical support to our work.
4. Indonesia warmly welcomes the Republic of Rwanda as the newest member of the International Seabed Authority.

Mr. President,

5. The **multitude of challenges** confronting our oceans today are **immense**.
6. These include **escalating** global demand for deep seabed natural resources, emerging technologies, climate change and environmental challenges.
7. The role of the ISA has therefore become ever more **critical and relevant**.
8. As the custodian of the Area, we must continuously work to **strengthen** the strategic role of ISA.
9. This will enable the Authority to **consistently ensure** that **exploration and exploitation of the Area and its resources**, adhere to the principles of **international law**, and the **common heritage of humankind**.

10. In this context, allow me to highlight 3 (three) points.
11. **First**, our leaders have made a global commitment on achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
12. However, as we reached the **halfway mark** this year, we are still **far off our target**.
13. An effective and efficient ISA **is important** to achieving these goals, particularly for achieving **SDG 14, on life under water**.
14. The ISA is also **strategically** placed to meaningfully contribute to **advancing other Goals of the SDGs**.
15. In this regard, we commend the **work and achievements** of the Authority, as stated in the **Secretary-General's 2023 Annual Report**.
16. We **must continue our efforts to enhance further progress** on the Strategic Plan and High-Level Plan for Action for 2019-2023.
17. Also important is for the Authority to continue fulfilling its mandates under UNCLOS and take into account the **recent BBNJ agreement** in its work.
18. **Second**, the BBNJ Agreement reinforces the unique mandate of ISA as the **custodian of the Area and its resources**.
19. It is therefore important for the **ongoing negotiation of the Exploitation Regulation** results in an outcome, that brings balance between **development and the environment**.
20. Indonesia believes the formulation of the Exploitation Regulations should among others:

- a. Be firmly rooted in **UNCLOS**, and the **1994 Agreement**, upholding the **principle of the common heritage of mankind**.
 - b. Strike a **delicate equilibrium** between ensuring economic development, sustainability, preservation, and protection of the common heritage of marine environment.
 - c. **Respect the rights and legitimate interests of adjacent coastal states** and the unique requirements and circumstances of Developing States.
 - d. Ensure that both Sponsoring States and Contractors **follow the principle of due diligence and compliance**.
21. As the largest archipelagic state, and a **primary producer of critical minerals**, Indonesia attaches particular importance to the ongoing negotiations on the draft Exploitation Regulations.
 22. We have submitted **written inputs** and are committed to engaging constructively with the aim of reaching a comprehensive agreement.
 23. Indonesia looks forward to **an updated consolidated** text of the Draft Exploitation Regulations, to facilitate a holistic assessment and progress for future discussion.
 24. **Third**, we must make the **2024-2028 Strategic Plan** further advances the attainment of the SDGs.
 25. Indonesia emphasizes the importance of **capacity building, marine scientific research, the transfer of marine technology, and ensuring continued balance between development and the environment**, in the strategic plan.

26. Also important is to **actively engage relevant stakeholders in the formulation of 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, and the work and decision-making processes of the Authority.**

Mr. President,

27. Since the Authority's inception, Indonesia has been steadfast in its support and commitment to the work of the International Seabed Authority.
28. As we assume our role in the Council in the next year, Indonesia stands ready to fulfill its responsibilities and pledges its support to the Authority, in carrying out its mission as we safeguard the heritage of humankind.
29. I thank you.

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