

**Statement by H.E. Mr. ATSUMI Yasuhiro,
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Seabed Authority
on Agenda Item 8: Annual Report of the Secretary-General
at the Assembly of the Twenty-Eighth Session
of the International Seabed Authority
Kingston, August 2023**

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 12 months.

Japan strongly supports the **invaluable role** played by the Authority in the international management of the **exploration for and exploitation of mineral resources** in the Area and highly values the Authority's continuous implementation of its mission under the leadership of the Secretary-General in accordance with **the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS**.

Japan appreciates the **considerable progress** made since last year's Assembly by the Authority on the important work of developing the **regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources** in the Area. Japan welcomes the strong commitment of all parties concerned in the deliberations on the regulations towards achieving our shared objective of establishing a **robust legal framework** which ensures **protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of its resources**. Although there is a considerable amount of work ahead, Japan is confident that Member States, contractors, scientists, and observers will work together to **advance substantive discussions** in good faith, under **the leadership of Secretary-General Lodge**.

To date, Japan has played a leading role in advancing scientific knowledge in **mining technologies** and in **protecting the marine environment** based on its experience of over 40 years of seabed mining. Japan would like to continue to share its expertise in the course of the **drafting process of the Regulations** and beyond. At the same time, **capacity development** in the field of the deep sea is one of our priorities in the context of activities in the Area. In light of this, we are delighted to inform that **Japanese contractors** have provided **training opportunities including on-board training** for a total of 10 trainees from 9 countries this year, and one further training opportunity for 5 participants is scheduled for later this year.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Japan's full commitment to UNCLOS and to **protecting the marine environment and biodiversity**. In this regard, I am particularly pleased to inform all the participants of the Assembly that Japan will be hosting a workshop on "Regional Environmental Management Plan in the Area of Northwest Pacific Ocean" in February next year in Tokyo. Recognizing the ever-increasing importance of promoting deep seabed mining that would bring **the shared benefits** which UNCLOS expects while **ensuring effective protection of the marine environment**, Japan remains committed to working closely with the Authority and all Member States as well as stakeholders towards making progress in the **development of comprehensive rules, regulations and procedures** in the Area and advancing a **legal order** in the ocean.

END