

**Statement delivered by Francilia Adire of the Republic of Nauru to the International  
Seabed  
Authority (ISA)**

**Agenda Item 8. a – Annual report of the Secretary-General at the 28th session  
of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica  
[Tuesday / Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023]**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Honorable Alando Terrelonge, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade,

Distinguished excellencies and colleagues, good afternoon to you all.

Mr. President,

My delegation reiterates our warm congratulations to you on your appointment and the members of the Bureau, as well as the outgoing President for his leadership and reassures you of our full support and cooperation. We also express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Jamaica for their continued warm hospitality and support to the important work of this Authority.

Mr. President,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report and the Secretariat in assisting with the preparation of the report. We appreciate the format and quality of the publication presented to us and find it provides a comprehensive overview of the extensive work undertaken in just one year. This is particularly impressive if not remarkable given the wide-ranging mandate of the Authority. Equally, we recognize the invaluable efforts made in raising the awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the Authority to the wider international community as we progress the realization of the common heritage of humankind in a transparent and accountable manner.

On that note, we see that significant progress has been made during the period under review in the implementation the different high-level actions and associated outputs identified in the Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan for 2019-2023. We applaud all organs of the Authority and its strategic partners for advancing these actions. The collective and coordinated efforts of all individuals and institutions involved is a testament to the important work of this Authority and the role it plays on the international stage.

In that context we highlight the contribution of the Authority toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and note the independent review commissioned in 2021 recognizing that the Authority contributes to 12 of the 17 sustainable development goals. We

note from the report that this achievement has received prominent attention and recognition at UN level conferences.

We commend the Authority and the Secretary-General for the leadership role in advancing women empowerment and leadership in ocean affairs and deep-sea scientific research. This is an important area for my delegation as a small island developing State. Nauru is proud to be a “Champion” of the Women in Deep-Sea Research project and also acknowledges the pledges made by our sponsored entity, NORI and other ISA contractors in reserving half of their training programmes to qualified women applicants. We welcome continued focus and investment in this vital area.

Mr. President,

We highlight the important mandate of the Authority to build capacity for developing states. We recognize the excellent work being done in this area and the dedicated strategy for capacity development produced by the Secretariat. Capacity development for developing States remains a priority area for my delegation, particularly those targeted at small-island developing sponsoring States. We appreciate and thank those States, contractors, institutions and individuals who have provided time and resources to all activities implemented under the capacity development programme. We have participated actively in The Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth in supporting Pacific sponsoring States across a range of themes and look forward to participating in follow-up initiatives. Again, we thank Norway and UNDESA for their generous support for this initiative.

We are pleased to see the Authority’s DEEP DIVE go-live last week. We commend this initiative, and the broad range of relevant subject matters it deals with.

Mr. President,

Technology is at the very core of the work of this Authority and its contractor base. In this regard, we note and very much welcome the preparation of a technology roadmap to be released in 2023 to support informed decision-making processes and support sustainable exploitation practices, particularly the monitoring of activities conducted in the Area. We further note a possible specialized workshop on this topic and look forward to seeing further details in due course.

Mr. President,

We should also acknowledge the contribution made to the work of this Authority by the ISA's contractor base. The work of ISA contractors under their exploration contracts and in conjunction with scientific institutions has delivered much in the way of knowledge through data collection and analysis. We expect this delivery to increase exponentially over the coming months and years. In the same vein, we welcome the focus on establishing new strategic alliances and partnerships with scientific and research organisations under the ISA MSR Action Plan. This collaborative approach to the promotion of marine scientific research in the Area is invaluable to the Authority mandate and in the support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. We also recognize the significance and value of the AREA2030 initiative and Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative. We thank the Secretariat for hosting a side event last week to inform us on the objectives and progress of the "SSKI" initiative.

Mr President,

We acknowledge the progress made by the ISA Council to advance the draft exploitation regulations. In particular, we note the Council's commitment to continue the elaboration of the rules, regulations and procedures related to exploitation in line with the roadmap with a view to their adoption at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Authority. We consider this as a priority issue to provide further stability and certainty in the regime for the Authority's contractor base and other stakeholders. Additionally, we recognize the development of the draft exploitation regulations as making a significant contribution to ocean affairs and in contributing to the development of law of the sea in a transparent and inclusive manner.

Finally, we support the continuing work of the Secretary-General in improving the organizational performance of the Authority. Indeed, this work is pertinent across all organs of the Authority as it evolves to become a fit-for-purpose regulator of seabed mineral activities. The Authority's institutional functioning requires further consideration, particularly as to capacity and resourcing in the short to medium term.

I thank you, Mr President.

