

## Trinidad and Tobago's Statement on the Secretary-General's Report

Thank you Mr. President, as this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor under your able stewardship, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the position and to assure you of my delegation's full support as we work together with you and the rest of the Bureau to advance the work of the Authority.

We thank host country Jamaica for their continued warm hospitality and camaraderie which we enjoy especially in the newly renovated Conference Centre (where we seem to be spending more and more time).

Trinidad and Tobago thanks the Secretary-General for this report and we commend the Secretariat for their invaluable contribution to the work of the Authority.

My delegation thanks the facilitators and co-facilitators of the intersessional working groups for their dedication towards achieving consensus on the respective draft decisions, under the astute guidance of President of the Council, Ambassador Juan Gonzales Mijares. We further thank all delegations for their flexibility and willingness to compromise as we work in good faith to achieve consensus on various issues as we seek to advance the work of the Authority. We welcome Rwanda as a party to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the UNCLOS and look forward to their participation in the work of the Authority.

At this stage, I would like to commend the Secretary-General on the important initiative and add our congratulations to Ms. Rima Browne of the Cook Islands the recipient of the 4th Edition of the Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research. In thanking the Secretary-General for this initiative we also express sincere appreciation to the Principality of Monaco for their invaluable support by, among other things, providing the prize for the winner of this prestigious award, which acknowledges the competency of marine scientists from developing countries.

T&T thanks member states and other stakeholders who have contributed to the voluntary trust funds which assist members from developing countries to participate in the respective meetings of the Council, the LTC and the Finance Committee.

We welcome the decision of the Council on establishing the position of Interim Director General of the Enterprise which is an important step in the Operationalization of the Enterprise, which is a crucial entity in the work of the Authority. We look forward to similarly operationalising the Economic Planning Commission.

T&T notes the progress made in addressing the Rules, Regulations and Procedures and standard and guidelines and we reiterate our commitment to collaborate with other delegations in seeking a robust schedule to regulate activities in the Area.

We acknowledge that the resources of the Area are the common heritage of humankind and in this regard, note with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the Authority to fulfill its mandate in accordance with the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement.