

**STATEMENT**

**by Delegate of Viet Nam**

**At the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Seabed Authority**

**Assembly session**

**Agenda Item 8a**

**Annual Report of the Secretary-General under Article 166, paragraph 4,  
of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

*Mr. President,*

As this is the first time Viet Nam takes the floor at this meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election and assure you of our full support.

*Mr. President,*

At the outset, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to express the high appreciation of Viet Nam to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports submitted pursuant to Article 166, paragraph 4 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which provides an overview of the activities of the Authority in the past year and an update on the status of implementation of the strategic plan of the Authority for 2019-2023.

Also, we would like to express our appreciation for the works and contributions made by the Authority in managing activities in the Area, including the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the Area.

With the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement, we are looking forward to the significant role of the Authority in coordinating activities beyond national jurisdiction, including the establishment of marine protected areas, the promotion of marine scientific research and other cooperative activities in the common heritage of mankind.

*Mr. President,*

After more than 40 years, UNCLOS continues to be recognized as the comprehensive legal framework governing all activities at sea. Viet Nam reaffirm our commitment that UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement on the Implementation of

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Part XI of UNCLOS are the legal basis for activities in the Area, on the principle that the Area and its resource are the common heritage of mankind.

Viet Nam always upholds and adheres to UNCLOS and its implementing agreements. Being a developing coastal State, Viet Nam always attaches significant importance to the sea as well as the deep seabed and its resources. We share the view that knowledge on deep seabed and its ecosystems remains nascent and there are gaps among countries in knowledge and capacity relating to seabed.

We highly appreciate the work of the Authority, including in capacity building and facilitating the participation of developing countries in the activities at the Area. We take note with appreciation several capacity-building activities by the Authority during the reporting period, including 3 regional workshops for Africa, Indian Ocean and Pacific countries. We urge the Authority to further promote and develop initiatives on capacity building and technology transfer to support an equal and effective participation in the activities of the Authority by developing countries in all regions. We also look forwards to more specific information on the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative launched at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, as a global knowledge-sharing platform on deep-sea biodiversity data.

*Mr. President,*

Marine environmental issues are increasingly concerned and focused by the international community, especially in the context that the ocean issues are associated with climate change. We believe that in conducting activities in the Area, we shall ensure the protection of the marine environment for sustainable development, the equitable benefits sharing, and the rights of developing countries, on the basis of international law, especially UNCLOS. In doing so, we need to pay due attention to this issue in the development of the legal framework in the Area, including the mining regulation.

To conclude, *Mr. President*, Viet Nam would like to reiterate our continued support for the work of the International Seabed Authority, and we strongly believe that the Authority will continue to make important contributions in managing activities in the Area under the legal framework provided by UNCLOS.

I thank you for your attention./.