

**Statement by Ambassador Angella Comfort
Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the International Seabed Authority**

**Part II of the 28th Session of the International Seabed Authority
Friday, 21st July 2023**

Mr. President,

As this is the final day of meetings of the Council for the Second Part of the 28th Session of the International Seabed Authority, allow me to thank you for your commendable leadership over our deliberations.

Please be assured of Jamaica's continued support as you preside over the remainder of this Session. I also extend sincere appreciation to all delegates for their dedication, active engagement, and valuable contributions to advance our work throughout the meetings.

Over the course of our discussions, we have tackled in meaningful ways, important matters pertaining to the sustainable management and equitable utilization of the Area. We have covered critical issues, including the priority development of regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources, the reports of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee, and the operationalization of the Enterprise and the Economic Planning Commission.

We welcome the reports delivered earlier today by the facilitators of the various working groups and take good note of the items to be addressed in Part III of the Session later this year. We believe that progress has been made and wish to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of the facilitators of the various working groups in advancing this important work of the Council.

We also welcome the decisions on the two-year rule, the Road map for continued work in relation to the draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, and the establishment of the position of an interim director general of the Enterprise.

Mr. President,

As host country of the ISA, Jamaica remains committed to facilitating and advancing the work of the Authority by promoting shared principles and common positions among member states, which allow us to move beyond our differences. I am pleased to note the significant advances made to date, and look forward to participating in the deliberations to be held in the Assembly in the week ahead.

I thank you.