



IRELAND

**Statement to the meeting of the Assembly of the
International Seabed Authority on the Commemoration of the 30th
Anniversary of the establishment of the Authority,
30th Session – 23 July 2025**

Thank you Mr President. At the outset, we would like to extend our congratulations to you on your election and to assure you of our full support.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

As we meet to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Authority, it is evident that the multilateral environment is experiencing challenges and there is a sense that unpredictability has become the new normal.

For Ireland, these challenges will not change our fundamental values. We remain committed to the international legal order, with multilateralism at its heart.

We believe that reinforcing and protecting this legal order will encourage stability, certainty and predictability, and contributes to a more secure international environment, which is essential for the maintenance of international peace and prosperity.

We reaffirm that the Convention sets out the unified, legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

Pursuant to international law, as reflected in the Convention, the mineral resources of the Area are the common heritage of humankind, they may not be subject to alienation, and any exploitation activities must be for the benefit of humankind as a whole.

The Convention entrusted the exclusive mandate, on behalf of humankind, for the management of such activities to the Authority.

Mr President,

On its 30th Anniversary, Ireland also acknowledges the significant progress that has been made to advance the mandate of the Authority.

In particular, we welcome the progress that has been made on the elaboration of the mining code and we recognise that very significant work has been undertaken towards the operationalisation of the Enterprise.

We also note with approval the recent steps taken by the Council towards the operationalisation of the Economic Planning Commission.

We commend the significant progress that the Authority has made over the last 30 years to advance the empowerment of women and their leadership in deep-sea-related disciplines.

We also acknowledge the important capacity-development and training features that have been fundamental to the Authority's work since its establishment.

Finally, we applaud the initiatives the Authority has taken to advance our understanding of deep-sea marine scientific knowledge.

However, there remain major scientific knowledge gaps relating to deep-sea ecosystems and the impacts of deep-sea mining on the marine environment.

It is essential, that before any potential exploitation activities commence, the scientific knowledge base is sufficient to allow for meaningful and effective regulation of such activities.

Thank you Mr President