



## **IRELAND**

### **Statement to the meeting of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority on the report of the Secretary-General, 30<sup>th</sup> Session – 24 July 2025**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Ireland thanks the Secretary-General for presenting her first report to the Assembly pursuant to Article 166 of the Convention. We also take note of her second report on the restructuring of the secretariat of the Authority.

We welcome the Secretary-General's commitment to enhance the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the Secretariat. Ireland commends these goals as the Authority moves towards a new phase in its work.

It is essential that necessary institutional governance reforms are progressed in order to ensure the Authority is fit for purpose and to reinforce the credibility and institutional reputation of the organisation.

In this regard, we welcome the proposed Decision of the Assembly for the second periodic review pursuant to Article 154 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Under international law, as reflected in the Convention, the Authority has the exclusive mandate to regulate the exploration and exploitation of mineral

resources in the Area, which are the common heritage of humankind. States, including sponsoring states, contractors and natural and juridical persons have obligations under the Convention as well as any applicable contracts with the Authority, including with respect to their possible involvement in activities in the Area outside the multi-lateral framework established by the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.

In this regard, we welcome the adoption by the Council of decision ISBA/30/C/19, which makes certain directions to the Secretary-General and Commission with regard to contractor compliance.

Mr President,

Ireland remains committed to the timely adoption of the mining code, but more importantly, to the adoption of a mining code that contains robust environmental protections, reflects sound governance principles and provides an equitable framework for developing countries in support of sustainable development.

We welcome the considerable progress made in the elaboration of the exploitation regulations during the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Council. We have seen some significant breakthroughs, including in relation to: a general environmental harm standard of harmful effects, a model for the Compliance Committee, and the regime for test mining.

New dynamic working modalities have also been introduced which will allow us to accelerate our work, and we look forward to important intersessional activity through the working groups and friends of the President, which will further advance our efforts.

We acknowledge that progress on the exploitation regulations is not as fast as some would like. States are acting in good faith in this endeavour, but it will take some time to complete the mining code.

The work involves the negotiation of a significant amount of text, it is multi-disciplinary, and involves a wide variety of national positions to reconcile in order to achieve consensus.

We are also seeking to develop rules for a new activity and with a relatively low level of scientific information.

As a sign of Ireland's commitment to advance our scientific understanding of the deep sea, Ireland is pleased to be providing significant financial support to the Authority's "One Thousand Reasons" campaign.

This campaign aims to advance understanding of the diverse and unique marine life found in the depths of our oceans through a taxonomy project that seeks to describe at least 1,000 species in the Area that are new to science by 2030. Ireland's funding will result in the description of approximately 100 species by individuals and groups from developing countries.

Thank you Mr President.