

**the Assembly of the Thirtieth Session
of the International Seabed Authority
Kingston, July 2025**

Agenda Item 8: Annual Report of the Secretary-General

**Statement by H.E. Mr. ATSUMI Yasuhiro,
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Seabed Authority**

Japan would like to express its sincere appreciation to Secretary-General Leticia Carvalho for her comprehensive report regarding activities undertaken by the Authority.

Concerning the latest situation surrounding exploration for and exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, Japan would like to reaffirm that it is our shared recognition that, the Area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind and activities in the Area shall be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole. It should be recalled that the Authority was established under UNCLOS as the international regime vested with a crucial role to organize and control activities in the Area, in accordance with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS, and its rules, regulations and procedures.

In order for the Authority to organize and control activities in the Area, regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area are indispensable. Japan has a serious concern that there is an emerging tendency to seek the possibility of exploitation activity outside the ISA framework. The adoption of a mining code is a clear requirement provided for in UNCLOS and remains as a task of the highest priority for the Authority. Such regulations will provide contractors with a foreseeable environment to pursue their exploitation activities within

the ISA framework in accordance with UNCLOS. The possible consequences of continued situation where the Authority is unable to provide the exploitation regulations should be seriously considered. In this context, Japan welcomes the progress made in the Council through positive engagement and commitment by Member States to advance the deliberation of exploitation regulations.

Importance of the protection and preservation of the marine environment can never be emphasized too much. In order to secure the protection and preservation, scientific data is essential. It is noted that abundance of scientific data has been collected through the activities by contractors and it has been utilized in the activities of ISA to formulate environmental plans and standards such as the Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP). The activities by contractors can promote further advancing the accumulation of scientific knowledge.

One of Japan's recent contributions to the Authority in this field is the Workshop on Advanced Technologies for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Area organized by Kobe University in June, aiming to achieve protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of resources.

Given for these practices, Japan attaches great importance to the development of exploitation regulations which strikes a reasonable balance between the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, based on sufficient scientific knowledge. By adopting a balanced set of exploitation regulations, the Authority will continue to play its role as an international regime governing activities in the Area.

In order to address the challenges that we face and to advance important missions of the Authority, Japan will continue to work closely

with all Member States and beyond. The Authority's view on a specific matter on activities in the Area and interpretation of the relevant provisions of UNCLOS should be based on discussions among the States Parties and be expressed through an appropriate procedure. Japan expects the Secretariat to facilitate such communications and cooperations among the States Parties through efficient and transparent administration.

In closing, Japan reaffirms our continued commitment to the activities of the Authority for the maintenance and development of the maritime order based on UNCLOS.

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