

**Statement by Singapore at the 30th Assembly of the International Seabed Authority on
the Report of the Secretary-General, 24 July 2025**

1. Singapore wishes to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and her team for the comprehensive reports.
2. On the report of the implementation of the action plan for marine scientific research of Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, Singapore notes the comprehensive updates and commends the Authority on the good progress made.
 - In particular, Singapore is honoured to have contributed to the strategic research priorities of the action plan, including by co-organising a side event at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-16) to advance deep-sea biodiversity knowledge and promote the synergetic and coherent implementation of initiatives relevant to biodiversity and oceans. Singapore has also endorsed the Authority's call for action on deep-sea science, technology and innovation, and encourages other member States to do the same.
 - We also reaffirm the importance of robust scientific knowledge and understanding of deep-sea ecosystems in the work of the Authority. We are heartened that the Secretariat has launched an open-source bibliographic repository on the Authority's website, which includes scientific reports from Contractors. This is on top of the Authority's DeepData repository, which has been instrumental in the sharing of non-confidential data from exploration activities. We look forward to further efforts from the Authority to facilitate the sharing of critical scientific knowledge.
 - We are happy to see the Authority's efforts to advance women's empowerment, particularly the See Her Exceed mentoring programme, which I recall held an excellent and informative side event during the March 2025 Council meeting. It is our hope that the Authority will continue to develop robust and comprehensive capacity-building programmes, in particular to facilitate the meaningful participation of developing States.
3. Singapore also reiterates our appreciation for the Secretary-General's consultative approach that she has adopted in engagement with stakeholders. We note the Secretary-General's intentional efforts to engage various stakeholders, including Sponsoring States and Contractors, to better understand our concerns and priorities. These engagements are very constructive, and Singapore will continue to participate in them actively.
4. We welcome the active participation of the interim Director-General of the Enterprise, Mr Eden Charles, in the work of the Authority and are heartened to see him with us today in good health. We thank him for his leadership and look forward to the operationalisation of the Enterprise, which will play a significant role in facilitating the participation of developing States in activities in the Area.
5. Mr President, this is the year in which we celebrate the 30th Session of the Authority, which is established under the auspices of the Convention and the 1994 Implementation Agreement for Part XI of the Convention. It is vested under these treaties with the exclusive mandate to organise and control activities in the Area. Specifically, these

treaties establish the legal framework in accordance with which all deep seabed mining activities in the Area are to be carried out. They are clear that the Authority has a duty to elaborate and eventually adopt rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

6. We recognise that the Council has been taking some time to elaborate the exploitation regulations given their complexity and importance. Singapore has been actively participating in this process in good faith to ensure that the exploitation regulations are sufficiently robust as befits regulating activities that concern the common heritage of humankind. We welcome the good progress made during the 30th Council meetings, in particular the completion of the second reading of the Consolidated Text, and dynamic and productive thematic discussions, including via the Friends of the President initiative.
7. Singapore notes that a subsidiary of The Metals Company applied for permits under the United States Deep Seabed Hard Minerals Act of 1980. We hope to have more information about this company's plans, including to what extent their plans might be inspired by the ongoing work in the ISA.
8. We wish to reiterate that the Convention and the 1994 Agreement affirm that the Area and its resources are the common heritage of humankind, a concept so fundamental that it is commonly considered customary international law. No State may claim, appropriate, nor exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part of the Area or its resources. At the same time, States Parties should not be undermining the work of the Authority, which is being carried out in accordance with the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.
9. We heard, in a statement yesterday, a reference to "gambling". To fail to fulfil our obligations under the Convention to develop and adopt robust exploitation regulations will be to leave the door open for unregulated exploitation of the mineral resources of the Area, which the Convention and the 1994 Agreement sought to prevent. This, Mr President, would be gambling, with the common heritage of humankind, that there will be no unregulated exploitation in the absence of exploitation regulations.
10. The Convention and the 1994 Agreement are one package. Any selectivity in their implementation and any violation of the common heritage principle would risk undermining the integrity of the legal framework for the ocean that is founded upon these treaties, the Authority, and the rules-based multilateral system. This will not be in the interest of any country.
11. Singapore reaffirms our position that deep seabed mining should not commence before robust regulations are adopted, in particular those intended to ensure effective protection of the marine environment. Along with our fellow members of the Authority, Singapore will continue to work on elaborating the exploitation regulations in good faith.
12. These recent developments are a timely reminder for members to continue to work together to expedite the conclusion of the elaboration of the exploitation regulations, and to ensure that the regulator of the seabed has regulations to fulfil its purpose. This is not only our obligation but the most effective safeguard for the marine environment, and the clearest demonstration of our commitment to the principles of the Convention.