

Statement by Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the International Seabed Authority, H.E. Ambassador Sergey Petrovich at the 30th session of the ISA Assembly on the US President's Deep-Sea Mining Executive Order

On April 24, 2025, the U.S. President's Executive Order on Deep-Sea Mining of Mineral Resources was issued, addressing matters of exploration and extraction of seabed resources within the outer boundaries of the U.S. continental shelf and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The Executive Order has already received assessments from a number of states and international organizations. In particular, the adoption of the document was commented on by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA, the Authority) L. Carvalho. In her statement, serious concern was expressed about the consequences of such a step for the regime of the Area and the activities of the Authority.

The international legal regime of the international seabed area (the Area) was formulated within the framework of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which proclaimed the Area and its resources as the common heritage of mankind. Taking into account the nearly universal membership of states in the Convention, this regime is observed by the absolute majority of UN member states. The principle of the common heritage of mankind currently governs all activities in the Area. Unilateral steps toward the development of the deep seabed contradict existing practice and undermine the activities of the International Seabed Authority.

In this regard, we would like to recall that, despite not participating in the 1982 Convention, Washington at a certain stage voluntarily participated in the work of the ISA and signed the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, and accordingly, is

obligated to refrain from actions that would defeat the object and purpose of this treaty until it expresses its clear intention not to become a party to it (Article 18 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). We urge the American side not to take steps that would harm the goals of orderly, safe, and rational use of the Area's resources, as well as the prevention of monopolization of activities therein (Article 150 of the Convention).

We separately note that the adopted Executive Order also addresses issues of resource extraction within the "extended" continental shelf of the United States. The Russian side has not recognized the outer boundaries of the "extended" shelf unilaterally established by Washington in 2023, due to this step's inconsistency with established international practice and non-compliance with relevant procedures. On this basis, we declare the inadmissibility of unilateral actions by the United States to develop the seabed within the specified boundaries.

In conclusion, we once again urge the United States to become a party to the 1982 Convention in order to fully comply with its provisions and procedures.