

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Polenov, representative of Russia on behalf of the Eastern European and Other States Group

Mr. President, Secretary-General, Judges from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, colleagues, friends.

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude for the kind words to me by the Group of African States and for me, it was a tremendous honour and pleasure to be in that post and work as the President of the ISA during this Jubilee year. On behalf of the Eastern European Group, I congratulate everyone on our common achievement, 20 years of the International Seabed Authority. This is a unique organisation and it is designed for the just use of the resources of the Area for the betterment of all humankind. The ISA has become an effective and prestigious international venue for addressing on equal footing the most pressing issues dealing with the use in the Area as the common heritage of all mankind the resources there taking into account the interests of all stakeholders, developed and developing nations, contractors as well as the environmental community. We anticipate that this regulatory coordinating body will continue to be strengthened and we join all those kind words and positive assessments we have heard in this chamber to the Authority and also those words of gratitude to the government of Jamaica for its giving us comfortable conditions for the work of the ISA and the work of the delegations.

By way of congratulations on the Russian side, we would like to read the text of a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary-General ISA.:

“Dear Mr. Odunton,

We congratulate you sincerely on the occasion of the jubilee of the 20th session of the International Seabed Authority and wish its participants successful and productive work. In recent years, the Authority has gained a firm hold as a reputable international organization that effectively ensures implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 with the purpose of managing the Area and its resources that form the common heritage of mankind. Being one of the main contractors, the Russian Federation highly values the work done by the Authority in terms of organizing and overseeing the activities in the Area. We attach special importance to the efforts aimed at formulating and improving the legal basis for cooperation with respect to development of its resources and the rules of exploration and prospecting and also the production of certain mineral resources.

At the same time, we believe that it is very important to take into account the interests and needs of the developing and least-developed states as well as applicable standards in the sphere of environmental safety and protection of the environment. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of the firm intention of Russia to continue to be actively involved in the work of the Authority, including examination and development of the Area's resources in compliance with international law as well as scientific research in the interest of ensuring sustainable development. Please accept dear Secretary-General the assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed by Sergey Lavrov"

With your kind forbearance sir, we will provide this text to the Secretary-General. Thank you for your attention.