

## **SECRETARY-GENERAL – SPEAKING NOTES**

Director-President, M. Manoel Barretto Da Rocha Neto,

Secretário de Políticas e Programas de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento do Ministério de Ciência e Tecnologia, M. Jailson Bittencourt,

Subsecretário-Geral Interino de Meio Ambiente, Energia, Ciência e Tecnologia do Ministério das Relações Exteriores, Ministro Reinaldo José de Almeida Salgado,

Secretário da Comissão Interministerial para os Recursos do Mar, Contra Almirante da Marinha do Brasil, José Augusto Vieira da Cunha de Menezes,

Secretário de Geologia, Mineração e Transformação Mineral do Ministério de Minas e Energia, Carlos Nogueira da Costa Junior,

Member of the Legal and Technical Commission, Commandant Carlos Leite,

Dear distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen and colleagues,

I am very pleased to be in Brasília on the occasion of the signature of this contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in

the Rio Grande Rise with Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais (CPRM).

The signature of this contract represents a milestone and the commencement of a new era for the development of a fruitful relationship between CPRM and the International Seabed Authority.

Brazil has been involved in deep seabed research and exploration around the world for many years. The Brazilian surveys have increased our knowledge of mineral resources in the South Atlantic and have led to the submission of the application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in Rio Grande Rise on 31 December 2013. I was told a new vessel research Vital de Oliveira has been launched this year which will participate in the execution of the Contract that we have just signed.

This is only the fourth contract for exploration for this new type of mineral resources that the Authority has signed. This is the first time that a contract covers an area located in a different geological and environmental setting in the Rio Grande Rise in the South Atlantic. CRPM has been conducting scientific research in the South Atlantic for many years, and the decision to apply to the Authority for a contract granting exclusive rights for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, represents significant support for realizing benefits from the common heritage of mankind. I commend CRPM and the Government of Brazil to undertake this pioneering project.

As you are well aware, CRPM will join the 22 entities which have committed to the development of the mineral resources of the deep seabed in the international seabed Area. However, this is the first time that a sponsoring State and its sponsored entity are from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC).

This is for me an indication of the high degree of confidence in the system that has been developed through the Authority since its establishment by the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As you are aware, I hope that the Authority will continue to serve the interests of the common heritage of mankind, including in developing the rules and regulations for exploitation in a transparent manner that sets out the expectations of the international community.

CRPM also plays a key role in many other projects relating to marine scientific research in the deep sea, including in the South-South Atlantic project. I wish to recall that until quite recently the International Seabed Authority and CRPM had been involved in developing a resource databank relating to mineral resources in the South Atlantic zone of peace (South America and Africa). It was the intention of CRPM and the International Seabed Authority that what has evolved from prospecting data would be utilized to serve as a basis for training of personnel from the South American and African countries bordering the South Atlantic

Ocean. With this new contract with the Authority, I believe the occasion is ripe to move this project forward in this direction.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like also to stress the significance of training opportunities that CRPM and the Government of Brazil as its sponsoring State to the developing States. This is one of the essential obligations under the contract. I look forward very much to working with colleagues from CRPM and the sponsoring State to further develop and implement the training obligations as the exploration programme moves forward.

In addition to the above, you will recall the training programme that CRPM and the ISA had been discussing. We had planned to utilize the Endowment Fund of the International Seabed Authority to help train qualified scientists from the South Atlantic zone of peace to further their capabilities to undertake deep seabed exploration and generally to increase our knowledge of resources in the South Atlantic Ocean. I believe that the step taken by CRPM will help facilitate this objective.

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In conclusion, on behalf of the International Seabed Authority, let me express my gratitude to CRPM and to the Brazilian Government for their support for me and for the work of the Authority. Brazil ranks ninth among the contributors to the budget of the Authority and we appreciate their contributions to date. Brazil has held a seat on the

Council of the Authority since 1996. Brazil is also represented on the Legal and Technical Commission and on the Finance Committee.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

The act of signing this contract therefore merely reinforces the long-standing support of Brazil to the International Seabed Authority and to the concept of the common heritage of mankind.

Obrigado.

9 November 2015

Brasília