



STATEMENT

BY

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SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY**

at the

**INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
Sensitization Seminar**

New York, 16 April 2014

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Seabed Authority, I wish to welcome you to the ISA's sensitization seminar on its work, the forthcoming twentieth session that marks a momentous anniversary since its creation, developments in our knowledge of the marine minerals that constitute the common heritage of mankind and some considerations in the Authority's work with regard to Article 82 of the Convention.

Distinguished delegates,

This is the second sensitization seminar that the Authority has convened in New York at United Nations Headquarters. Since 2007, we have convened seven such seminars during which we inform government officials, marine policymakers and scientists at the national and regional levels of the work of the Authority, while promoting the participation of scientists from institutions in developing countries in marine scientific research in the Area. Typically, the seminars include presentations by experts on, inter alia, the mineral resources of the Area, the process and status of the legal regime established for the conduct of activities in the Area, the protection and preservation of the marine environment from the impact of activities in the Area, opportunities available for capacity building, and presentations on relevant regional issues with respect to Law of the Sea issues.

Previous seminars have been held in Manado, Indonesia (March 2007), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (November 2008), Abuja, Nigeria (March 2009), Madrid, Spain (February 2010), Kingston, Jamaica (March 2011), New York, UN Headquarters (February 2012) and Mexico City, Mexico (November 2013). Additionally, the Authority has received requests for sensitization seminars in Ghana, Chile, South Africa, Uganda, and the African Union. These requests will be considered in the context of the annual budgets and in the order in which they were made.

This morning, we will here updates on knowledge gained to convert deep seabed marine minerals into reserves of the metals that they contain, the status of exploration for polymetallic sulphides deposits, Japan's work on ferromanganese cobalt-rich crusts exploration and technology development, and the status of offshore oil and gas development in the context of Article 82 of the Convention.

Our speakers are Dr Jim Hein of the United States Geological Survey's Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Centre in Santa Cruz, California, who will make the presentation on marine minerals i.e., "Update of prospects for marine minerals"; Mr Natsumi Kamiya, Deputy Director General of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) who will make the presentation on "Japan's work on ferromanganese cobalt-rich crusts exploration and technology development"; Dr Georgy Cherkashov, Deputy Director, Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean, St Petersburg, Russia, who will make the presentation on "the status of exploration for polymetallic sulphides deposits" and who is a member of the Authority's Legal and Technical Commission, and Mr Wylie Spicer, Q.C, an eminent lawyer with Norton Rose Fulbright Canada who will make his presentation on "The status of offshore oil and gas and considerations relating to Article 82: An industry perspective".

This afternoon, the staff of the ISA will provide an overview on the forthcoming 20th session, comprising the agendas of the organs and subsidiary organs of the Authority, provide briefings on elections to the Council, the stakeholders survey for the exploitation regulations for polymetallic nodules, and make a presentation on training opportunities offered by the Authority and on its Endowment Fund.

Distinguished delegates, I now wish to give the floor to Mr Michael Lodge, my deputy and the Legal Counsel of the Authority who will be the master of ceremonies for the workshop.