

Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Jia Guide
Deputy Director-General of Department of Treaty and Law,
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at the Opening Session for the International Workshop on
Further Consideration of the Implementation of Article 82
of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

26 November 2012, Tangla Hotel, Beijing

His Excellency Mr. Nii Odunton, Secretary General of the
International Seabed Authority,
Madame Zhang Haiwen, Deputy Director of China Institute for
Marine Affairs,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A pleasant good morning.

On the occasion of the opening of the International Workshop on
Further Consideration of the the Implementation of Article 82 of
the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, I am
honored to extend, on behalf of the Department of Treaty and

Law of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, warm congratulations to the workshop and warm welcome to all the guests present today.

This year marks the 30th anniversary for the opening for signature of *the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. China and many other countries have held grand commemorative activities. It is true that some parts of the Convention are codification of custom international law, but it is also obvious that many provisions of the Convention reflect the new development of international law, which embodies the wisdom and hard work of our forerunners who created the Convention. Article 82 is definitely such a forward-looking and ground-breaking provision in the Convention. Our workshop is dedicated to the implementation of Article 82. Its mission is to go down the path guided by our forerunners and explore ways to flesh out the principles and ideas enshrined in the Convention. This is a unique way that we commemorate the Convention and pay tribute to our forerunners who gave birth to the Convention.

Since the advent of the Convention, Article 82 has been apparently dormant, and now many factors have make it timely to wake up the sleeping beauty. I will list a few: First, with the

development of technology and economy, the prospect for coastal States to exploit non-living resources of their outer continental shelf is getting brighter. Second, the orderly operation of the International Seabed Authority, especially the adoption of three sets of Regulations for exploration, fully testifies to the Authority's ability and experience that are needed to elaborate rules, regulations and procedures concerning the implementation of Article 82 of the Convention. Third, being highly professional and efficient, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf has made recommendations on a number of submissions, thus providing a basis to finalize the outer limits of the continental shelf of coastal States. These elements combined laid a solid foundation for the international community to conduct substantive work on the implementation of Article 82 of the Convention.

When studying the implementation of Article 82 of the Convention, we are faced with good opportunities; however we should by no means underestimate the challenges. Article 82 is a complex and comprehensive Article that touches upon legal and political, economic and technical as well as many other issues. The implementation of Article 82 calls for a balanced approach

to dealing with the interests of coastal States and the overall interests of the international community. Meanwhile, particular consideration should be given to the interests and needs of the developing States. When we study the implementation of Article 82, we should exercise caution and take a step-by-step approach. The result of our study should be strictly in compliance with the spirit of the Convention, and should also be able to withstand the test of history.

I would like to express my special thanks to the International Seabed Authority and the China Institute for Marine Affairs for co-hosting this workshop. This workshop provides a platform for communication and exchanges of views on the implementation of Article 82 of the Convention. I am pleased to note that renowned experts from various fields of work are present at the workshop, including scholars from universities and research institutes, officials from governments, representatives from academia and industry, representatives from the developing and the developed States, as well as members of the Legal and Technical Commission of the Authority, who will shoulder the responsibilities in drafting relevant regulations with respect to Article 82. It is our honor

and privilege to have with us Honorable Mr. Satya Nandan, who participated in the negotiation and drafting of the Convention 30 years ago. As a witness to the birth of the Convention, he will provide valuable advice to our workshop. I am confident that with the joint efforts of everyone present, the workshop will achieve complete success!

Before I close, I would like to express my thanks to the Authority and Chatham House for holding a workshop in 2009 in London. The fruitful results from the London Workshop have laid a sound basis for us to carry forward in Beijing.

Finally, May I wish you all a happy stay in Beijing!

Thank you !