

DRAFT NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ISBA/26/A/2 AND ISBA/26/A/2ADD.1 (AGENDA ITEM 9).

Mr President.

Permit me to convey NIGERIA's appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for allowing the hosting of this conference in the beautiful city of Kingston Jamaica.

I congratulate Mr Michael Lodge on his re-election as Secretary General and assure him of our continuous support. I also commend the secretariat for the hybrid format that allows participation of delegates virtually.

Mr President

With the adoption of the African group report by Nigeria, we wish to highlight the strategic direction 6 aimed at ensuring the fully integrated participation by developing states, including through the operationalization of the enterprise, is fundamental to giving full meaning to the principle of the common heritage of mankind. We reiterate our position as stated by the African group and convey Nigeria's regret therefore that the council was unable to adopt the recommendation of the LTC for the appointment of an interim Director-General in spite of the LTC's reference, to the basis identified by the financial committee.

In this context I stress the importance of the appointment of an interim Director General in 2023.

Having adopted our statements via the African group co-ordinator, I wish to congratulate Dr Kirsty Mcquaid from South Africa who has been announced as the 2021 Awardee of the SG Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research and applaud her contribution to the body of knowledge on deep sea research. (To be announced)

Finally I wish to thank and commend the secretary general for his gender parity approach to the empowerment and leadership of women through the “women in deep sea research project”.

In conclusion, allow me to once again reiterate Nigeria’s support and commitment to the mandate of ISA while we join other member states in the African group in anticipation of the conclusion of the MOU between the ISA and the African Union Commission in the nearest future.