



## **27th PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY (III PART)**

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN.

Thank you very much Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General and your entire team,

Esteemed Ambassadors and delegates,

Esteemed stakeholder representatives,

Our thanks to the Government of Jamaica for making it possible for us to return to this Conference Centre.

As this is the first time that I am addressing this Council, I would like to congratulate you on your presidency and allow me once again to express the support of the Spanish delegation for the work of this Third Part of the 27th period of sessions.

The precautionary principle or criterion forces us to anticipate negative impacts on the marine environment, and the consequences, such as the loss of biodiversity. We have been hearing this repeatedly from stakeholders and the scientific community. But not only the Authority, but also the contractors and the sponsoring States are obliged to apply the precautionary criterion.

In accordance with this principle, at the previous session, Spain expressed its commitment to slow down the transition to the exploitation phase of the mineral resources in the Area and to continue with exploration activities, until we are capable of guaranteeing effective protection of the marine environment, as provided in Article 145 of the Convention.

We reiterate it, moreover, we will legally argue the reason for this commitment.

I would like to end, Mr. President, by recalling that this organization acts on behalf of, and for, the benefit of humanity. It is a responsibility that we cannot shirk.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.