
*Statement by the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda at the 22nd
Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority
on July 20th 2016, Kingston, Jamaica*

*Presented by H.E. Ambassador Dwight C. R. Gardiner, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
to the International Seabed Authority*

Agenda Item: 8 Report of the Secretary General

Mr. President, as this is the first opportunity that Antigua and Barbuda has taken the floor at this meeting, let me express congratulations to you on behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on your election as the President of this 22nd Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. Similar congratulations are extended to the Vice-Presidents of this 22nd Session of the Assembly. I also wish to commend you on your leadership in this meeting and to convey that my delegation will unwaveringly support you and the Bureau toward the fruitful conclusion of this meeting. I must also extend appreciation to our CARICOM colleagues, Jamaica for their unfailing hospitality as host country to the International Seabed Authority, my delegation feels very much at home thanks to our gracious host.

Mr. President, my delegation would like to thank the Secretary General for his very comprehensive and informative report on the progress of the organization over the last 12 months; namely, July 2015 to June 2016. I affirm that Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to engaging with the International Seabed Authority in the advancement of the goals set forth for it in Part Eleven of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which was signed right here in Jamaica in 1982. Further, Antigua and Barbuda recognizes the importance of the Area as the common heritage of mankind as pronounced by UNCLOS, thereby underscoring the importance of this eminent organization. In this vein, I am very pleased to indicate, as was previously noted by the distinguished delegate of Jamaica that Antigua and Barbuda, on May 3rd 2016, acceded to both the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part Eleven of the United

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority. We therefore encourage all member States that have not done so to take the necessary steps to adhere to these key instruments.

Mr. President, turning specifically to the Report of the Secretary General, Antigua and Barbuda notes the work carried out by the Legal and Technical Commission since the last meeting of the Assembly and, in particular, over the past weeks on the formulation of the draft regulation for the exploitation of marine mineral resources in the Area. These Regulations undoubtedly provide an effective tool to ensure the efficient and equitable exploitation of the resources of the Area in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. We also welcome the continued work of the Commission on the priority deliverables identified by the Chair of the Commission and my delegation will provide necessary feedback as relevant. Similarly, we wish to underscore the important role that the Mining Code will play as a comprehensive set of Rules, Regulations and Procedures issued by the Authority to regulate the prospecting, exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources found in the Area. It is this comprehensive regulatory framework that ensures the activities being undertaken in the Area are done with a level of transparency, accountability and sustainability to ensure that the resources, which may be available beyond national jurisdiction, are truly used for the common heritage of mankind and are not extracted or utilized in a manner which causes harm to the marine environment.

International cooperation is key to the effective execution by organizations such as the International Seabed Authority of their mandates. Where inter-governmental organizations have areas of overlapping or of common interest, it is to the benefit of both organizations and their Member States that a level of coordination exist in the conduct of their activities to ensure that scarce resources are utilised in the most efficient and effective way possible and any duplication of effort is avoided. Antigua and Barbuda therefore applauds the Secretariat of the ISA for its continued efforts at coordination and cooperation with other international agencies, such as the UN (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea), UN-Oceans, International Cable

Protection Committee and others. Of particular note, my delegation welcomes the conclusion of an Agreement between the International Maritime Organization and the International Seabed Authority which was approved by the Assembly at its 21st Session and looks forward to the conclusion of an Agreement with the International Hydrographic Office which was recently approved by the Council.

Mr. President, as the Authority now finds itself on the verge of a transition from regulation of the exploration to the exploitation of the resources of the Area, it is incumbent on the Authority, the Commission, the member States and the Contractors to collaborate and cooperate for the true benefits of the resources falling within the Area to be realized.

Thank you.