

***Statement by H.E. Mr.Masanori Nakano,
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Seabed Authority
on Agenda Item 8: Annual Report of the Secretary-General
at the Assembly of the twenty-second session
of the International Seabed Authority
Kingston, 19 July 2016***

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere congratulations upon your election as the President of the Assembly of the 22nd session of the International Seabed Authority. I also would like to congratulate the Vice-Presidents upon their elections.

I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality to host this session of the Authority.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Nii Odunton, for his comprehensive and detailed Annual Report on the activities undertaken by the Authority during the past year.

Mr. President,

As a maritime state, Japan attaches great importance to the development of a sound maritime order based on the law of the sea, with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at its core, as well as the role played by the Authority in the international control of the exploration for and exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area. In this regard, Japan highly values that the Authority has steadily implemented its mission in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention.

Japan welcomes that the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration was adopted at the 21st session of the Council last year, and just yesterday, the application of the extension of the

contracts by the 6 contractors including one of the Japanese contractor, Deep Ocean Resources Development CO., LTD.(DORD) was approved.

In addition to this, Japan fully appreciates that the Authority has been steadily proceeding towards the adoption of the Exploitation Code. Japan believes the work by the Authority will be a constructive step towards the positive exploitation of the resources in the Area, which is the principal aim of the Authority. In this regard, the Exploitation Code needs to be discussed based on the accurate evaluation of economic efficiency with the knowledge of experts, taking into consideration the technical and economic difficulties in exploiting mineral resources in the Area. Japan will continue its constructive engagement in the work of the Authority to adopt a sensible regulation of mineral exploitation, with a good balance of considerations for “exploitation” and the “environment.”

Mr. President,

According to the report of the Secretary-General, as of 31st May 2016, 50 State Parties were in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions. I wish to take this opportunity to encourage the State Parties concerned to fulfill their obligations to duly make their financial contributions.

With regard to the Overhead Charge, Japan would like to appeal to the contractors in arrears in their payment for the Overhead Charge to make payment immediately and retroactively to resolve unfairness in relation to the contractors that do pay their charges every year. At the same time, Japan would like to request the Authority to ensure the transparency of the Overhead Charge account, for instance, through the disclosure of the balance sheet.

Mr. President,

Following last year's success, “Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC)”, one of the Japanese contractors, has conducted training programmes again this year in May and June. These programs included the on-board training and the post-cruise training for participants from Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil, Egypt, Thailand and Fiji and lasted more than 1 month. The main target of these programmes was capacity building of the trainees

to develop skills for marine environmental baseline studies, to which support was provided by “Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).” Japan hopes that the trainees will take back what they have learned to play more active roles in the field of maritime affairs in their home countries.

Japan has served as a Council member since the establishment of the Authority, and hitherto consistently provided competent members to the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee. Japan has also contributed in the area of the financial management of the Authority as the largest contributor. I would like to take this opportunity to request the invaluable support of the Member States of the Authority to the candidature of Japan in the election to fill vacancies on the Council and the candidate nominated by Japan in the election of members of the Finance Committee, and Legal and Technical Commission.

Mr. President,

In closing, I would like to reiterate Japan’s intention to continue to be actively engaged with the work of the Authority in terms of human and financial resources, of which importance is ever increasing. Japan will also make further contributions to the establishment and advancement of legal order at sea in the Area through the Authority.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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