

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Hau Do Suan,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
To the United Nations in New York and Head of Myanmar Delegation
To the 22nd Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority
(Kingston, 20th July 2016)**

Mr. President,

As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your well deserved election to the Presidency of the 22nd Session of the General Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. We are confident that under your able guidance, this annual session will come to a fruitful conclusion. My delegation assures you of our full support and cooperation. Our congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau. I would like to express our sincere appreciations to your predecessor Ambassador Helmut Tuerk for his excellent stewardship of the 21st session of the General Assembly.

My delegation also congratulates Dr. Mariusz Orion Jedrysek for his able leadership in steering the Council to its successful conclusion. We would also like to commend the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee for their hard work and valuable contributions to the work of the Authority.

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the wide-ranging activities of the Authority for the period July 2015 to June 2016 as contained in document ISBN/22/A/2.

Mr. President,

Being a coastal state, Myanmar attaches great importance to the 1982 UNCLOS and follow with great interest in the work of the International Seabed Authority. We are pleased and honoured to have the opportunity to serve on the Financial Committee and the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the ISA. Our modest

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contribution to the work of the Authority reflects Myanmar's commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine resources which is the common heritage of mankind. We look forward to further strengthening our cooperation with the Authority as Myanmar has made its submission to the CLCS in accordance with Article 76 of the Convention for the extension of continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. As a responsible member of the ISA, Myanmar is regularly contributing its own share of financial contribution in full and on time despite its limited financial and technological constraints.

Furthermore, in commensurate with our continued support to the cause of the Authority, Myanmar will actively consider becoming a party to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority in the near future.

Mr. President,

My delegation fully supports the great efforts of the Secretary General in keeping momentum of the work of the Authority as we are moving from exploration to exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area. In this regard, we are pleased to learn that on 14 July, the Legal and Technical Commission has issued the initial working draft on **Regulations and Standard Contract Terms on Exploitation for Mineral Resources in the Area**. We would like to commend the Legal and Technical Commission for their dedication and hard work to produce this important draft. We hope that a broad consultation could be conducted among member states and all the stakeholders with a view to achieving a legal framework for sustainable use of marine resources.

On the other hand, the Authority has yet to reach the stage of sharing of benefits to the State parties derived from the activities in the Area according to the Article 82 paragraph 4 of the Convention. However, we are pleased to note that the Authority has already made significant progress in delivering its responsibility to set rules, regulations

and procedures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from the activities in the Area.

Mr. President,

Adequate financial resources and enhanced capacity are essential for the Authority to successfully undertake the ever expanding workload and responsibilities. In this respect, we support the new budget scheme of US\$ 17 million for the Authority for 2017-2018, and the recommended working capital fund increase to \$660,000. My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary- General and his dedicated team of the Secretariat for conducting a wide range of activities while maintaining cost-saving measures within the budget.

My delegation thanks the member states who have contributed to the voluntary trust fund which facilitate participation of members of the Finance Committee and the LTC from developing countries. We also commend the establishment of endowment fund for marine scientific research. We hope that more scientists and technical personnel from developing countries will benefit under the marine scientific research programmes of the fund in future.

We would like to encourage members of the Authority, relevant international organizations, academic, scientific and technical institutions, philanthropic organizations and private persons to continue contributing to the fund as an investment in knowledge.

My delegation is glad to note that the Satya Nandan Library continues to serve member states and interested entities and individuals very well with its rich treasure of knowledge. We recommend that the Secretariat continue to develop the library and making more information available to the extent possible with the increased budget allocation.

We are pleased to note the Authority's initiatives to facilitate the exchange of information and dialogue within the United Nations and among relevant international
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organizations. In this regard, we would like to encourage greater cooperation and coordination between the Authority and the United Nations as well as relevant international organizations for the successful implementation of SDG 14 relating to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

We are confident that the Authority will be able to overcome all challenges ahead of it through the active participation, determination and cooperation of all its members in our collective efforts to achieve our shared goals of sustainable development.

I assure you of Myanmar's continued support and active contribution to the work of the Authority as we progress in the coming years.

I thank you.