

Thank you Madam President,

As this is the first time Kenya is taking the floor, my delegation congratulates you on your election as President and you can count on my delegation's support during your term.

My delegation also wishes to thank the President of Council, Her Excellency, Lumka Yengeni, for her excellent work and leadership in steering the 25th Council meeting.

My delegation further thanks the Secretary General and his entire staff for the tireless efforts they have put in to make this session successful and for executing an excellent 25th Anniversary commemorative event.

Madam President,

25 years indeed marks a great milestone for the International Seabed Authority. It presents a chance for the Secretariat and State Parties to take stock of the achievements and accomplishments attained during this period. These have been many and far-reaching. Exploration of the deep sea and exploitation of the minerals found therein would be another great leap for mankind. 25 years also offers

us an opportune time for self-examination, critique and for formulation of tangible recommendations and policies that will enable the realization of the aspirations of the founding fathers of this Organization.

Madam President,

Kenya ratified UNCLOS on 2nd March 1989 and acceded to it on 29th February 1994, before its entry into force on 16th Nov 1994. My delegation recognizes the efforts made by renown Kenyan diplomats and international law scholars, Prof. Frank X Njenga and Dr. Andronico Adede, in the development of the UNCLOS Seabed mining legal regime that we have today. While Kenya aligns herself and supports the positions of the African Group, under the able exemplary Coordination of the delegate from Algeria, who has and continues to offer effective and very consultative leadership all the times, my delegation continues to exceptionally emphasize on this 25th Anniversary the need to operationalize the Enterprise for the benefit of the developing Countries. It is only through the Enterprise that developing countries will be able to fully come on board in Seabed mining. My delegation reiterates the need for inclusiveness and full regional representation in Seabed mining, as the Ocean resources are a Common heritage of mankind for everyone's use and benefit.

Madam President,

The development of cutting edge technology and innovation in development of Seabed mining technologies has spurred hopes that exploration and exploitation can be achieved in a commercial yet sustainable manner. Complementary progress in marine science research has also necessitated the need to create a balance between commercial profitability and conservation of the flora and fauna in the seabed. As such, more research and innovation will be required to achieve this delicate balance. As we also commemorate the African Day of Seas and Oceans, my delegation urges the International Seabed Authority to strengthen its interactions with the African Union and its specialized institutions in the establishment of a regional centre in Africa to promote and enhance the research and technological capabilities of Kenya as well as other African States in respect to deep sea mining in the Area.

Madam President,

As I conclude, let me express my delegation's commitment to the inclusive and sustainable mining of the Area. Let me further reiterate that this must go hand in hand with international aspirations under the Blue Economy and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We look forward to engaging with several delegations during the Oceans Conference that has been co-convened by the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Portugal, in Lisbon Portugal from the 2nd -6th June 2020.

I Thank You