

**25TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
AGENDA ITEM 9 OF THE ASSEMBLY:
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

INTERVENTION BY SINGAPORE

[Please check against delivery]

Mdm President,

1 Let me start by congratulating you on your election as the President of the Assembly of the 25th Session of the International Seabed Authority. The Singapore delegation assures you of our full support. We also join others in thanking H.E. Mariusz-Orion Jędrysek from Poland for ably presiding over the 24th session. We would also like to thank the Government and people of Jamaica for their warmth and hospitality.

2 Turning to the Report of the Secretary-General, we wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and his team for the comprehensive report. We wish to commend him and his team for the extensive work that has been undertaken during the reporting period, both in terms of internal improvements and external outreach. Our delegation would like to make four brief observations.

3 First, we welcome the progress on the development of a new website for the Authority. The website is one of the Authority's primary means of communication with not only its members, but also the general public. It is therefore crucial that its interface is user-friendly so that the work of the Authority can be presented and communicated to all in a clear and effective manner. We also look forward to the final launch of the Authority's database management system taking place this year.

4 Second, we welcome efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination with other international organisations and bodies, including through the inter-agency mechanism of UN-Oceans. Activities in our oceans are closely inter-related, and it is therefore essential that relevant entities and processes do not operate in silos, but instead work together as much as possible to ensure that there is a consistent and coherent approach towards the management of our oceans and their resources.

5 Third, Singapore welcomes the attention that has been given to the development of Regional environmental management plans ("REMPs").

The need to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area is embodied in Article 145 of the Convention. REMPs represent an important component amongst the range of measures aimed at protecting the marine environment. At present, a REMP is in place for the Area in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. We fully support the work plan for the development of REMPs in other parts of the Area.

6 Finally, Singapore welcomes the Authority's efforts to promote marine scientific research in the Area and to build the capacity of developing States. The initiative to standardize methodologies for taxonomic identification will be particularly useful in allowing scientific knowledge and information to be easily shared across different frameworks and platforms. This will, in turn, help to push the boundaries on the best available science. It is only with better knowledge and understanding that we can better manage our oceans and their resources.

Mdm President,

7 To conclude, Singapore would like to wish the Authority a very happy 25th anniversary and to reaffirm our commitment to work towards an exploitation regime that would benefit mankind as a whole.

8 Thank you.

.