

Statement to be delivered at the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the ISA

Madame President

His Excellency Michael W. Lodge, Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority,

High Commissioners and Ambassadors,

Representatives of States Parties,

Other Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to convey congratulations to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and to Jamaica, the host country, on the celebration of the Authority's 25th Anniversary. Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the ISA when we ratified the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on July 28, 1995.

Jamaica must be commended for its commitment to the ISA. The country's contribution and dedication to the work and success of the Authority must indeed be lauded. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago also commends the present as well as previous Secretaries-General on their stewardship and the outstanding work performed which has resulted in the significant advancement made by the Authority over the last 25 years.

Notable is the progress made in the development of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area,¹ particularly as it seeks to regulate the activities in the Area for the common benefit of mankind. The efforts undertaken towards the development of a most appropriate financial model and payment mechanism which would allow Member States to

benefit economically from the exploitation of minerals extracted from the Area must not go unmentioned.

Additionally, we wish to commend the ISA for its concerted effort in enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research through capacity building. The Authority has sought to increase women's participation and involvement in several areas of activities. This is observed in the improved availability of training opportunities afforded to women as well as in the area of employment. The appointment of the ISA's first female director, in the person of, Ms. Jihyun Lee to the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources is evidence of the Authority's commitment to the enhancement of the role of women. Another achievement of the authority is the introduction of the Secretary-General Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research which was captured by none other than Dr. Diva Ammon, a Trinidad and Tobago national in 2018. This is further evidence of the ISA's thrust to encourage deep sea scientific research by scientists from developing countries.

The Authority's eagerness to operationalize activities in the Area in the most efficient and effective manner for the benefit of humankind was also demonstrated with the initial appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for the Enterprise regarding a proposal by the Government of Poland for a joint venture with the Enterprise. The extension and expansion of the duties of the Special Representative clearly demonstrates the importance the Authority places on the efficient operationalization of the Enterprise.

Additionally, the ISA has been cognizant of the importance of protecting the marine environment. While developing legal codes for deep seabed mining in the Area, the ISA is also conscious of its mandate to protect the marine environment as observed in the measures

contained in the mining codes to protect the marine environment, the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans (REMPs), and working with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) through the development of a liability regime for the Area, as well as the request for an Advisory Opinion from the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea on the issue of liability of States and others on environmental harm due to activities in the Area.

Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its support to the ISA as part of its overall commitment to implement its obligations which flow from the Convention. We recognize that with the continued stewardship of Secretary-General Lodge ably supported by his diligent staff, the ISA enters the next chapter of its history in a position to continue to discharge its mandate under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement as the custodian of the common heritage of mankind and the only entity charged with the responsibility to ensure that activities in the Area are carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole.