

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Pham Hai Anh,
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations,
Head of Viet Nam's Delegation to 25th Session of the Assembly
of the International Seabed Authority
(Kingston, Jamaica, 23 July 2019)**

Agenda item 9: Annual report of the Secretary-General

Please check against delivery

H.E. Madam Kamina Johnson-Smith, President of 25th Session of the ISA
Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General,

Madam President,

At the outset I wish to warmly congratulate you on your election as the President of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Assembly of the ISA and strongly believe that under your very able leadership this Session will arrive at a successful outcome in an efficient manner.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General and his team for the comprehensive report under the current agenda item, as well as efforts and dedication throughout the year. My delegation takes special note of the ISA efforts in the management of activities in the Area during the past year, including the consideration and approval of plans for exploration of mineral resources in the Area, the development of draft regulations and the steps taken to implement of the Strategic Plan of the Authority for the period 2019-2023.

We particularly note the development of the regulatory regime for prospecting and exploration and exploitation activities in the Area, including the development of draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. Priority should continue to be given to the development of regulations so as to provide an adequate framework for rule-based management of mineral resources in the deep seabed.

Oceans still holds great potentials awaiting to be unlocked for the benefits of all humankind in accordance with the principles of common heritage of mankind, equality and equity.

In this regard, we would like to emphasize that prospecting and exploration activities, ISA regulations and national laws and regulations relating to deep seabed mining must ensure the successful implementation of SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, including the seabed, and fully comply with the requirements of marine environment protection in accordance with relevant provisions of the UNCLOS. The development of the mining code should be guided by the above principles. We welcome efforts to ensure inclusive, participatory and transparent process in the development of the code.

It cannot be overemphasized that the participation of developing countries in these activities should be further encouraged in line with the provisions of the UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the UNCLOS. Regulations on activities in the Area need to be developed and adopted in full consideration of the interests of developing countries to ensure that the ISA act in the interest of all, leaving no one behind.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Authority in promoting capacity building in deep-sea research and technology, most notably the plans to provide 270 additional training places by contractors between 2019 and 2023. We also note that the trainees in the past five years represented relatively the geographical distribution among developing countries and are specially encouraged that the report shows perfect gender equality among the selected candidates this year and are even more encourage to listen to the oral update by the Secretary-General this morning, which demonstrates more progress.

Viet Nam particularly appreciates being one of those countries benefiting from the technical assistance by the Endowment Fund for Marine Research in the Area. We call upon the Authority to further enable international cooperation in capacity building and experience sharing in the field of marine scientific research in the Area.

As regards document ISBA/25/A/8, we are sympathetic to many points raised by the African group, including the evidence-based and need-based approach.

In conclusion, Madam President, we are at your full disposal and ready to work closely with all delegations to ensure the success of this session contributing to making seabed a genuine common heritage of mankind.

Thank you for your kind attention./.