

SPEECH ASSEMBLY 29 rev

ISBA. 29TH SESSION. ASSEMBLY. COMMEMORATION OF

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of GRULAC, I would like to reiterate our warmest welcome to His Excellency Surangel Whipps Jr., the President of Palau, H. E. David Adeang, President of Nauru, the Honorable Vaughn P Miller, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Bahamas, the Honorable Ralph Regevanu, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Vanuatu, and the Honorable Sonny Williams, Assistant Minister to The Prime Minister Cook Island.

Let me express our congratulations to Dr. Periaswamy, winner of the fifth edition of the SG's Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research, and our gratitude to Monaco for their support in this regard.

We would I like also to extend our warmest welcome to the Republic of San Marino to the membership of the Authority.

Our sincere recognition to the **Jamaica** Government and people for their unwavering hospitality and for making this meeting possible, despite the challenging circumstances generated by the Hurricane Beryl.

Allow me to express our sincere appreciation for the work done by Secretariat, especially to the Secretary-General for the Annual Report submitted pursuant article 166, paragraph 4 of the Convention, and for its associate report (“Leading precautionary and responsible governance of the Ocean global Commons based on Science, Solidarity and Transparency”). Our gratitude also to the LTC, the Finance Committee, and all facilitators of working groups for their hard work, including in the intersessional periods.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Brazilian Delegation, I would like to make a few comments:

The recent Hurricane Beryl, which hit the Caribbean with devastating effects, serves as a stark reminder of not only of the region's vulnerability to natural disasters but also an eloquent testament to our shared vulnerability. Brazil was also deeply impacted by unprecedented flooding that displaced thousands of people, killed more than 200, and damaged dramatically the infrastructure. This kind of natural events underscores the need for stringent Environmental Safeguards in the “mining code” to prevent damage to marine ecosystems, which are crucial for protecting coastal areas from the impacts of natural disasters.

Mr. President,

As we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ISA, we can take stock of our achievements and the work still to be done.

The Council has been working very hard, in particular in response to the triggering of the “2-year rule”, and constructive negotiations have contributed to significant progress in the regulations. Under the leadership of the President of the Council,

Ambassador Olav Myklebust, we finished the first reading of the Consolidated Text, among other successful outcomes. This is a milestone to be celebrated.

As we look into the future, we realize that much remains to be done to complete the elaboration of the Exploitation Regulations and related Standards and Guidelines. To achieve a robust legal framework, some thematic issues need to be discussed and incorporated into the Regulations, such as liability involving all stakeholders, the benefit sharing mechanism, the operationalization of the Enterprise, the establishment of the Economic Planning Commission, the Environmental Compensation Fund, and an Inspection, compliance and enforcement mechanism, among others.

Brazil is ready to participate in the intersessional Groups to address any outstanding matter and is fully committed to contribute to the institutional strengthening of the Authority.

Mr. President,

Brazil has placed the oceans agenda, including the BBNJ Agreement, front and center on our sustainable development program at the G20. We share the view that it is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability for our oceans and all those who depend on them.

Brazil has decided to reaffirm its commitment to the ISA through the proposal of a candidate for the position of SG of the ISA. Besides the intrinsic value of this candidature, based on the highest level of expertise and knowledge of our candidate, Mrs. Leticia Carvalho, Brazil considered that gender equality and geographical rotation are principles that should be honored.

Gender equality is integral to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Goals (SDGS) particularly goal 5, a fundamental driver of material and spiritual global progress. Women's involvement in environmental and mining industry decision-making leads to diverse leadership and ensures the sustainable development and better governance.

Mr President,

Its time for Latin America and Caribbean to contribute to the ISA at its highest level. Geographical rotation is a guiding principle and established practice in the United Nations. It aims to ensure fair and equitable representation of different regions and countries, promoting inclusivity in the implementation and enforcement of the laws governing the seas and the ocean.

The principle of geographical rotation carries a moral weight, particularly in the context of international organizations, as it embodies fundamental values of fairness, respect, and cooperation. These values are essential for fostering a just and effective international system and therefore an effective and inclusive multilateralism. Let's honor this principle in the benefit of all. Precedents may create uncertainty, damage cooperation and erode trust among regions and countries. Let's try to avoid it.

Thank you,

