

Intervention by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the 29th Session of the Meeting of the Assembly of the ISA on the Report of the Secretary-General

Thank you Mr. President

My delegation acknowledges the presence of the Presidents of the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Palau. We welcome the newest member of the UNCLOS, San Marino.

Trinidad and Tobago has a long and proud history of participating in the work of the ISA and the Law of the Sea. Trinidad and Tobago has been represented at every session of the Authority since its inception. Having said this Mr. President, my delegation joins others in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the International Seabed Authority. We also commend Jamaica the host State for their hospitality and for the reception held today in commemoration of this significant milestone. We further thank all States, entities, organisations and individuals that have contributed to the Authority's success over the past 30 years.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for this comprehensive report.

As we commemorate this 30th anniversary, it is important that we highlight some of the remarkable achievements of this Authority for example:

- The presentation of the consolidated text and completion of the first reading of the draft exploitation code currently being negotiated by the Council is an indication of the progress and great collaboration among the members of the Assembly and especially the Council.
- The adoption of two decisions regarding the understanding and application of Section 1, paragraph 15 of the annex to the 1994 Agreement, which was no easy feat.
- The role of the ISA and the Secretary-General in advancing the role of women in ocean affairs. That 57 percent of the secretarial staff members are women and 50 percent of the senior management positions are occupied by women. This is indeed in line with the SG's commitment to increase the number of women employed by the organization.
- The appointment of an interim director general of the Enterprise. The Enterprise is the main means through which developing countries can participate in the activities of the Area and the appointment of an IDG is a

step in the right direction towards the full operationalization of the Enterprise.

- The support given by the ISA to building the capacity of small island developing states, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries through the numerous initiatives undertaken.

My delegation expresses appreciation to the facilitators and the delegations that participated in the intersessional work of the Council to ensure the significant advancement of these negotiations.

Mr. President, my delegation encourages States that are in arrears of assessed contribution to the ISA to settle these outstanding balances to enable the efficient functioning of the Authority.

We express our gratitude to the States and the contractors who have contributed to Voluntary Trust Funds, enabling the participation of members from developing countries in the meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee as well as in the additional meetings of the Council.

We observe that the balances of these Voluntary Trust Funds which support the participation of members from developing countries in these meetings are quite limited. We encourage financially capable States to contribute to these funds to ensure that participation is as wide and representative as possible.

In thanking the Secretary-General for the Annual Report, Trinidad and Tobago renews our commitment to working with the Secretariat, the observers and all members States to advance the work of the Authority to the benefit of humankind.