



Statement

by

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and Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the
International Seabed Authority**

during

31st Session of the ISA Assembly

30th July 2026

**Agenda Item 11: Report of the interim Director-General of the
Enterprise**

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Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the interim Director General of the Enterprise for his comprehensive report.

The Enterprise, as established under article 170 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement, remains central to realizing the principle of the common heritage of humankind and ensuring the meaningful participation of developing States in activities in the Area.

The report highlights several important successes. Notably, the interim Director General has engaged actively in negotiations on the draft regulations for exploitation, ensuring that the Enterprise's role is clearly defined and commercially viable. We note that the Enterprise has also advanced studies on managerial and administrative policy options, laying the groundwork for eventual independence from the Secretariat.

My delegation welcomes the indications that the Interim Director General has remained seized of developments in the relating to deep seabed mining activities. His participation in global forums such as the International Nickel, Copper, Lead and Zinc Study Groups has allowed the him to gather valuable market intelligence, which will undoubtedly strengthen the Enterprise's strategic positioning while

work continues on securing its commercial stability and competitive capacity.

Furthermore, webinars/initiatives on technology transfer, including the TRIDENT project and environmental monitoring innovations, have been well received by member States and underscore the Enterprise's commitment to environmental stewardship.

At the same time, the report identifies challenges that require our collective attention. Chief among these is the continued legal uncertainty arising from the absence of adopted exploitation regulations, which hampers progress toward joint venture arrangements.

My delegation takes seriously the concern highlighted in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the report of the Interim Director General. The overlap of reserved areas with applications outside the legal framework of the Convention and the 1994 Agreement poses significant risks to the Enterprise's future ability to participate directly in activities in the Area, which in turn undermines the ability of developing countries to participate therein. Jamaica regards this fundamental principle as core objective of the Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement.

In addition to full adherence to the multilateral framework of the Convention and 1994 Agreement, considered and careful diplomacy must occur with non-states parties so that the promise Common

Heritage of Humankind and all it entails remains in place for the present and the future.

Mr. President,

My delegation ascribes great importance to the work of the Enterprise. It is a vital mechanism to ensure that developing States are not left behind in the emerging deep seabed mining regime. Through joint ventures, capacity-building, and technology transfer, the Enterprise can provide access to knowledge, training, and opportunities that would otherwise remain out of reach.

In this way, it embodies the vision of the Convention: that the resources of the Area are the common heritage of humankind, to be managed for the benefit of all.

We, therefore, are encouraged by the positive indications emanating from discussions currently under way with an entity as highlighted in paragraph 31 of the Report. We look forward to future updates in this regard.

As we conclude, Jamaica reaffirms our commitment to supporting the Enterprise in overcoming its challenges, strengthening its institutional capacity, and safeguarding its reserved areas. In doing so, we ensure that the promise of the common heritage is not diminished, but

realized in full, with developing States as equal partners in this endeavour.

Thank you.