



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT BY THE PHILIPPINES

Agenda Item 11 – Report of the Interim Director-General

29/30 July 2026, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Tuesday

International Seabed Authority

Mr. President,

The Philippines thanks the Interim Director-General of the Enterprise, Mr. Eden Charles, for his comprehensive report and his efforts during the relevant reporting period to advance the operational readiness of the Enterprise.

As an archipelagic developing State deeply reliant on the health of marine ecosystems and as an important supplier of critical minerals, particularly nickel, the Philippines attaches importance to the operationalization of the Enterprise.

We reaffirm that the Enterprise is a cornerstone institution established under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement to give practical effect to the principle of the common heritage of humankind by ensuring that the benefits derived from activities in the Area are shared equitably and that developing States are able to participate meaningfully in those activities.

We note the ongoing efforts of the Interim Director-General to strengthen the Enterprise's institutional and operational preparedness, including the development of governance and administrative arrangements, engagement with Member States, and the continued evaluation of joint venture models.

We emphasize that future joint venture arrangements should genuinely promote capacity-building, technology transfer, and meaningful participation of developing State personnel, consistent with the Convention and the 1994 Agreement. We likewise recognize that the successful operationalization of the Enterprise is closely linked to the development of a coherent, effective, and implementable regulatory framework that provides legal certainty while safeguarding the interests of all States.

We also note the market intelligence presented in the report regarding global trends in critical minerals, including the sustained demand for nickel and copper driven by the global energy transition. As a major terrestrial producer of nickel, the Philippines underscores the importance of ensuring that any future deep-seabed mineral activities are undertaken responsibly, with due regard to their broader economic implications, including their potential effects on developing economies that rely on land-based mineral production.

Lastly, we welcome the Enterprise's continued emphasis on environmental technologies, scientific cooperation, and technology transfer. We reiterate that any future commercial activities undertaken by or in partnership with the Enterprise must be guided by the precautionary approach, the best available science and scientific evidence, and robust environmental standards to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment.

In conclusion, the Philippines recognizes the important work of the Interim Director General of the Enterprise and looks forward to continuing to work constructively with Member States to operationalize the common heritage of humankind.

Thank you, Mr. President. **END**