



Statement by

Mr. Andre Coore, Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica

to the International Seabed Authority

during

Part I, 31st Session of the ISA

Jamaica Conference Centre | Kingston

16th March 2026

Agenda Item 13: Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

My delegation extends our thanks to the new Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC), Ms. Sissel Eriksen, (Norway) for the comprehensive report which reflects the continued work of the Commission to carry out its mandate based on the directives of the Council. We take this opportunity to thank the previous Chair, Mr Eramso Lara Cabrera (Mexico) for the work undertaken during his tenure.

We note with appreciation the participation of 33 members in the Commission's work during the first part of this session. We fully support the Commission's request that Member states ensure that nominated members actively participate in its work.

Mr President,

Training and capacity building are major concerns for my delegation. Therefore, in principle, we welcome the information on the total number (568) of training opportunities offered to personnel of developing countries and the Authority by Contractors since 1994. However, as GRULAC state it is deeply concerning that only nineteen (19%) of that total has come from our region. The fact that women only accounted for 39 % of the personnel trained is also an issue. We note that the 2025 training opportunities have made great strides in addressing the gender imbalance, by providing a near 50\50 gender balance - a development we welcome. Initiatives such as Women in Deep-Sea Research and the S.H.E. mentorship programme reflect our collective commitment to inclusivity and equity, and deserve continued support.

However, there is still a question as to whether a similar balance has been achieved with respect to geographical representation in our region.

We acknowledge that the publicising of training opportunities offered by Contractors is one of the factors that affect access. In this regard, my delegation is willing to work with the Secretariat and regional academic institutions to ensure there is wider dissemination of the relevant information.

Mr. President,

My delegation notes that a record number of applications for the extension of contracts – **eight** – were received by the Commission. In view of the heavy workload of the Commission, six of those were successfully reviewed. We note further that the Commission, with due regard, observed that the remaining two contracts are scheduled to expire following the second part of its thirty-first session.

With respect to the assessment of Contractors whose performance may not be fully aligned with their contractual obligations, my delegation notes the concerns raised by the LTC, including under-expenditure, limited at-sea training commitments, and the need for specific, measurable, contract-area-based plans. These issues underscore the importance of accountability and transparency in the work of the contractors, as we move closer to exploitation activities. We, therefore, urge contractors to provide requested information promptly and completely, consistent with their obligations, and recognising that timely responses are vital to maintaining confidence in the Authority's ability to oversee and protect the Area from irreparable harm.

Mr. President,

My delegation acknowledges the critical importance of the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans (REMPs) as a part of any exploitation regime. Therefore, the Commissions' report of progress in developing of the draft

REMP for the northwest Pacific Ocean is appreciated, including information on a proposed workshop on management approaches in line with the standardised procedure for the development establishment and review of REMPS.

Equally important for my delegation is indication that work on other REMPS is also progressing. The REMP for the Indian Ocean has an indicative time for completion, while the draft REMP for the northern Mid Atlantic Ridge will be reviewed by the Commission.

Mr. President,

We thank the Commission for its recommendations on the election mechanism of the Economic Planning Commission. My delegation believes it is critical that the mechanism for operationalizing the EPC appropriately represents an equitable balance of interests. It is also vital to ensuring that economic gains from deep seabed mining are balanced against environmental risks, long-term sustainability, and inclusive participation.

In closing, Jamaica reaffirms its full support for the work of the LTC.

Thank you.