

(Rev 2)

**Statement by Ms. Rujirat Chittanonda, Second Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Kingdom of
Thailand on Agenda Item 9: Consideration and adoption
of the strategic plan for the Authority for the five-year
period 2019-2023, at the meeting of the Assembly of the
24th Session of International Seabed Authority, Kingston,
Jamaica, 25 July 2018**

Mr. President,

1. Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you on your election as President of the Assembly of the twenty-fourth session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA). I would also like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee for all their hard works that have contributed towards the delivery of desirable outputs. And, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I am very grateful for the kind reception and hospitality accorded to us by the Government of Jamaica, as a host country, during our time in Kingston.

Mr. President,

2. Since we are now in transition period from the exploration to the exploitation phase, the regulatory framework for clear mandates of rights and obligations of contractors is, therefore, of utmost importance. This includes rules, regulations and procedures to protect and preserve the marine environment of seabed mineral exploration and exploitation, as well as the appropriate mechanism to provide for equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area reflecting the principle of the common heritage of mankind. In this regard, my delegation takes note with appreciation on the progress made

on the draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area whose objective is to provide for the exploitation of the resources in the Area consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS. The document, once become effective, will ensure that activities in the Area conducted by contractors at the exploitation stage will be in compliance with the fundamental principles contained therein.

Mr. President,

3. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item as contained in document ISBA/24/A/4 and welcomes the draft 5-year strategic plan of the ISA, which has been formulated for the first time since the establishment of the Authority in 1994. This document is one of the most important elements resulting from the periodic review undertaken in pursuance of Article 154 of UNCLOS at the last session of the ISA in 2017. We believe that having a long-term plan defining strategic direction and aims of the Authority would help us in ensuring that the work of the Authority will not only be consistent with the UNCLOS and its 1994 Implementing Agreement as well as the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, but also reach the goal for the exploitation of resources of the Area for the benefit of mankind, while at the same time providing effective protection and preservation of the marine environment for the benefit of future generations.

4. Under the strategic plan, my delegation wishes to place an emphasis on **promoting and encouraging marine scientific research in the Area**. This issue is of particular importance for developing countries, including Thailand, which have less capacity in terms of technological advancement and scientific knowledge. The supportive participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in scientific research programmes would, indeed, be one of many ways to doing this, and it would resonate with the common heritage of mankind principle.

5. Also **capacity building programmes**, which is closely

linked to technology transfer promotion as mentioned earlier, is crucial **for developing States**. Offering opportunities to participate in training programmes would enhance the capacity of developing States so that they will be able to have **full participation in activities in the Area** in accordance with the spirit of UNCLOS.

6. Lastly, we are pleased that the Workshop on Submarines cables and deep seabed mining will be held in Thailand in October this year and look forward to constructive discussion and fruitful outcome.

Thank you.
