

Statement by Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe
Permanent Representative to the International Seabed Authority
On the Resumption of the 27th Session of the International Seabed Authority

31 October, 2022

Mr. President,

I am pleased that we are to get back to business in this, the third part of the twenty-seventh session. We are set to continue our work on the *Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area*, in line with the roadmap endorsed by the Council in December 2021, and on which we have already completed significant work during the first and second parts of the twenty-seventh session held earlier this year.

This is a pivotal time for the Authority, as we develop the framework for the future of activities in the Area. Much progress has been made on the draft regulations by the Informal Working Groups. However, we are mindful of the challenges in reaching consensus on those matters which will have serious implications for the work of Council and our Roadmap.

As we begin to give attention to the important matters under consideration by the Council during the next two weeks, Jamaica looks forward to making its contribution to this work. It is particularly important that we deliberate carefully on matters related to the Economic Planning Commission, the Enterprise, and the expansive work of the Legal and Technical Commission - including the development, review and approval of *Draft Regional Environmental Management Plans*.

It is also a positive signal that additional time has been allocated for the discussion on the Review of progress on the roadmap scheduled for this Friday. This will have substantial implications for the work of the Authority in the months ahead.

Jamaica is of the view that we have the opportunity, this session, to make significant strides towards preparation for an even more productive twenty-eighth session in the coming year.

Against that background Mr. President,

I greet you all, on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, and emphasise Jamaica's commitment to ensuring effective progress during this session.