



Federal Republic of Nigeria

Intervention on Agenda item No 9

By

Dr. Tiwatope Adeleye Elias-Fatile,
Head, International Law Section, First United Nations Division,
International Organisations Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Abuja

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ISA Headquarters, Kingston, Jamaica

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Madam President,

I thank you for giving me the floor. Nigeria congratulates you for taking over the leadership of this meeting for this session and we assure you of our cooperation.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the African Group. However, we like to add few comments.

Madam President,

3. Nigeria is grateful to the Committee that produced the report on the periodic review of the international regime of the Area, pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We commend the chair of the Committee, Ambassador Helmut Tuerk for his leadership of the Committee. We also commend the Secretary-General for taking some proactive measures, as appropriate, on the aspects of the report that concern the secretariat.

4. We are pleased to note that the report contains useful recommendations, which if implemented, will serve the best interest of Member States, as well as the contractors. My delegation agrees in particular, with recommendations 3, 4, 6 and 11, which are of importance to Member States, especially the developing States. These recommendations amongst others, will also ensure equity in the staffing of the Secretariat, equal participation in the activities of the

ISA, capacity enhancement of nationals of States and availability of data, and transparency in the activities of the contractors and the Secretariat.

Madam President,

5. On a related matter, Nigeria appreciates the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. This important international legal instrument will ensure the maintenance of health of the oceans, particularly in the areas beyond national jurisdiction.

6. Therefore, the recommendations of the Committee and the outcome of the follow-up Intergovernmental conference should hopefully lead to the universal acceptance of this legal instrument. Nigeria pledges its support to all contributory efforts and activities of ISA in the process of finalizing and adopting the legal instrument.

Madam President,

7. I thank you.