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Thank you, Madame President,

I would like to commend you for the hard work that went into the preparation of the President's aid to negotiations for this session.

The International Seabed Authority, as one of the institutions created by the Convention, stands ready to contribute towards a successful outcome of this conference, skilfully led by you.

Madame President,

General Assembly 72/249 provides that the mandate of this conference is to elaborate the text of a Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Assembly equally reaffirmed that that the work and you.

beyond national jurisdiction. The Area and its resources are designated as the common heritage of mankind which is to be utilized for the benefit of mankind as whole, taking particular consideration of the needs and interests of developing countries.

A prominent feature of the Part XI regime is that necessary measures shall be taken in accordance with the Convention with respect to activities in the Area, to ensure the effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities.

Such measures shall be taken by the Authority. They include the adoption of rules, regulations and procedures to, among other things, prevent damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment