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**General Statement
by
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Head of Delegation
of
the Republic of Indonesia**

At the

**23rd Meeting of the State Parties to the 1982 United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea**

New York, 10 June 2013

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau upon your appointment. We are confident in your able leadership to make our meeting successful. Allow me also to thank and congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Isabelle Picco, the President of the 22nd Meeting, for her outstanding achievement throughout the year. We also commend the work of the Secretariat, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), in facilitating this meeting.

My delegation would like to thank the President of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Secretary General of the International Seabed

Authority (ISA), and the Chairman of the Commission on the Limit of Continental Shelf (CLCS) for their comprehensive reports and information. Allow me to take this opportunity to deliver my delegation's general observation on those reports.

Mr. President,

Indonesia continues to place great importance on the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the main international law governing the ocean that has been widely accepted by states. In this regard, we welcome Ecuador, Swaziland and Timor Leste as new state parties to the Convention.

The International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea is an important judicial organ for solving legal problems arising from the application or interpretation of the Convention. We commend the work of the Tribunal and welcome the Annual Report of the Tribunal dated 2 April 2013, which shows the achievements of the Tribunal for the year 2012.

During the year 2012, the Tribunal has reached a remarkable milestone through the decision on the delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal (case no. 16), where for the first time the Tribunal touched the issue of boundary delimitation and activities in the Area. To add it up, the judgment was delivered in an expeditious manner, which is appreciated by states.

Indonesia also welcomes the Tribunal's order to the ARA Libertad case (case No. 20), as well as its recent judgment of the Tribunal on the M/V Louisa case (case No. 18). We look forward to having the Tribunal's decision on the settlement of the M/V Virginia G case (case No. 19).

My delegation would like to extend our high appreciation to those states and institutions who have contributed to the voluntary trust fund established by the Secretary-General to assist States in connection with disputes to be settled by the Tribunal.

The same appreciation should also go to the Nippon Foundation for providing support on the capacity building and training programme conducted by the Tribunal on dispute settlement under the Convention. This capacity building

programme should be further developed as it would provide opportunity for state parties to enhance knowledge on the work of the Tribunal.

Mr. President,

We highly commend the work of the International Seabed Authority in promoting the fulfillment of objectives of the 1982 Convention. And to that extent, we congratulate the Secretary General Nii Odunton for his re-election and wish to convey the continuing support of my delegation to his work.

In the context of its future development, Indonesia would like to underline the important role of the Authority in ensuring that the marine environment is protected from any harmful effects which may arise during exploration and exploitation activities in the Area.

We welcome the decision of the Assembly on the new Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area, as well as the Council's decision in approving five new plans of work for exploration of marine minerals in the deep oceans. This new decision and regulation support the objective of the Authority in protecting and developing deep ocean riches as the "common heritage of mankind".

Mr. President,

While congratulating the now complete members of the Commission of the Limits of the Continental Shelf, my delegation would also like to convey our appreciation in the progress of the work of the Commission. Since our last meeting, the Commission has held its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, and has considered in total, 11 submissions, including four new submissions made at the end of last year.

Indonesia welcomes this new expeditious pace by the Commission, and notes the contribution of the Commission's decision to establish sub-commission to consider eligible submissions by States to this new pace.

We would like to re-emphasize our highest appreciation to each members of the

Commission for their work and their willingness to dedicate 21 weeks every year for the work of the Commission. My delegation supports any measure taken by the meeting of state parties to ensure that all members of the Commission can perform their functions effectively with an adequate support and facilities.

Mr. President,

Next week, right after our meeting, the General Assembly will deliberate on the matter of oceans acidification, which is very important to us. As an archipelagic country, Indonesia is dependent to its marine resources, and welcomes every opportunity to discuss the preservation of oceans. My delegation will take part actively in the discussion on this matter.

I thank you.
