

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO
AND THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to specify the scope of co-operation between the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as “the IOC”) and the International Seabed Authority (hereinafter referred to as “the Authority”) in promoting the development and conduct of marine scientific research in the international seabed area and in publication and dissemination of research and analysis results for the mutual benefit of Member States and in the light of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”, notably articles 143, 163 (13), and 169, as well as Section 1(5)(h) of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention adopted on 28 July 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 48/263 “the Agreement”).

The IOC and the Authority agree:

1. to consult, where appropriate and practical, on issues of mutual interest in the field of marine scientific research, related services and capacity building with a view to promoting or enhancing a better understanding of activities in the international seabed area;
2. to work in close co-operation, where appropriate and practical, in the field of ocean services, particularly in the collection of environmental data and information. For that purpose, the World Data Centres of the IOC/IODE Programme may assist the Authority to identify the existing gaps, to retrieve appropriate data and to develop a database to be used for analysis and synthesis;
3. to invite each other’s representatives to attend and participate in the meetings of their respective governing bodies as observers in accordance with the rules of procedures of such bodies;
4. to exchange data and information as appropriate on matters of mutual interest;
5. to conduct, where appropriate, co-operative studies and seminars;
6. that this Memorandum of Understanding is without prejudice to agreements concluded by either party with other organizations and programmes;

7. that the co-operation between the two organizations referred to herein is subject to the requirement of confidentiality of data and information imposed upon the Authority by the Convention in respect of data and information submitted to it by applicants and contractors for exploration of resources of the international seabed area;
8. that this Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon its signature by the Executive Secretary of IOC and the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority. It may be terminated by any of the parties by giving to the other a written notice six months prior to the proposed date of termination;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have signed the present Memorandum of Understanding in duplicate.

Patricio BERNAL
Executive Secretary
International Oceanographic Commission

Satya N. NANDAN
Secretary-General
International Seabed Authority