

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 2019-2023

I. INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan embodies the Authority's vision for implementing Part XI and other provisions related to the Area under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Convention) and its 1994 Implementation Agreement (1994 Agreement), under which activities in the Area shall be organized, carried out and controlled by the Authority on behalf of mankind as a whole. The Strategic Plan takes into account that, pursuant to the Agreement, "*the setting up and functioning of (...) the Authority shall be based on an evolutionary approach (...) in order that [it] may discharge effectively [its] (...) responsibilities (...) at various stages of the development of activities in the Area*" (1994 Agreement, Annex, Sec. 1(3)). The Strategic Plan forms part of the "*general policies of the Authority [that] shall be established by the Assembly in collaboration with the Council*" (1994 Agreement, Annex, Sec. 3(1)).

The Convention and the 1994 Agreement constitute an intricate and unitary system of rights, obligations, duties and responsibilities in connection with activities in the Area. This system involves a broad stakeholder base which includes States parties, sponsoring States, flag States, coastal States, State enterprises, private investors, other users of the marine environment, interested global and regional intergovernmental organizations. All have a role in the development, implementation and enforcement of rules and standards for activities in the Area to ensure that these activities are carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole. Through this Plan, the Authority aims to engage with stakeholders in implementing the regime for the Area accordingly. The guiding principles of its implementation are transparency and cost-effectiveness.

The Strategic Plan is organized around the following components:

- a. Mission Statement;
- b. Context and challenges;
- c. Strategic Directions for 2019-2023; and
- d. Results and priority outputs.

In order for the Authority to be able to effectively address those strategic objectives, an action plan and a work plan will be developed that identify the actions required and provide the linkages between the Strategic Plan and the work of the various organs of the Authority.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the International Seabed Authority is to organize and control activities in the Area so as to promote the orderly, safe and rational management of the resources of the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, whilst contributing to the delivery of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. This will be accomplished by developing and maintaining a comprehensive regulatory mechanism for commercial deep seabed mining that incorporates the highest practicable standards of protection of the marine environment and human health and safety and allows for the full participation of developing States consistent with the principle of the common heritage of mankind.

III. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

In an ever-changing world, and in its role as custodian of the common heritage on behalf of mankind as a whole, the Authority faces many challenges. As described in this section, it needs to achieve an appropriate balance between multiple competing objectives.

Globalization and sustainable development

The United Nations has adopted a new development agenda, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". As part of this new agenda, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted. Of most relevance to the Authority is SDG14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development – but other SDGs also have relevance to the work of the Authority (see **Annex 1**).

The challenge for the Authority is to contribute to the effective implementation of the SDGs, including SDG14, through implementing the economic, environmental and social mandates given to it by the Convention and the 1994 Agreement. These mandates include, e.g., that "*Activities in the Area shall (...) be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole*" (Convention, Art. 140(1)) ensuring "*effective protection for the marine environment*" (Convention, Art. 145) and "*of human life*" (Convention, Art. 146), "*promot[ing] and*

encourage[ing] the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area”

(Convention, Art.143), *“promoting effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area”* (Convention, Art. 148), as well as, *inter alia*, *“foster[ing] healthy development of the world economy and balanced growth of international trade,”* (Convention, Art. 150), *“ensuring the development of the resources of the Area”* (Convention, Art. 150(a)), the *“orderly, safe, and rational management of the resources of the Area”* (Convention, Art. 150(b)), the *“enhancement of opportunities for all States Parties”* (Convention, Art. 150(g)) and *“the development of the common heritage for the benefit of mankind as a whole”* (Convention, Art. 150(i)).

The need for exploitation regulations

The primary means by which the Authority is able, and indeed required to organize, carry out and control activities in the Area on behalf of mankind as a whole is to *“adopt and uniformly apply rules, regulations and procedures”* (Convention, Annex III, Art. 17). The basis for these rules, regulations and procedures is Annex III of the Convention which complements Part XI and is further governed by the 1994 Agreement. Annex III sets out the basic conditions under which prospecting, exploration and exploitation may proceed in accordance with the Convention. This needs to be implemented through regulations that reflect best international standards and practices as well as principles of sustainable development. The 1994 Agreement stipulates that rules, regulations and procedures relating to the conduct of activities in the Area are to be adopted as those activities progress.

The challenge for the Authority is to develop and implement an efficient, cost-effective, administratively sound regulatory path for future mineral exploitation. Whilst market uncertainty and volatility will remain major factors driving commercial investment, beyond the control of the Authority, the need for regulatory certainty, with clear guidelines for environmental regulation and clear financial terms, is a critical element in advancing deep seabed mining.

Environmental protection

“[E]nsuring effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities [in the Area]” (Convention Art. 145) receives detailed attention in the Convention and the 1994 Agreement. The 1994 Agreement states that *“[a]doption of rules, regulations and procedures incorporating applicable standards for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.”* (Annex, Sec. 1(5)(g)) is one of the matters that the Authority shall concentrate on between the entry into force of the Convention and the approval of the first plan of work for exploitation. The Convention requires the Authority to adopt rules,

regulations and procedures designed to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment having the potential to interfere with the ecological balance of the marine environment. The Authority is also required to protect and conserve the natural resources of the Area, preventing damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.

The challenge for the Authority is to adopt an adaptive, practical, technical and commercially viable framework for environmental management, under circumstances of considerable scientific, technical and commercial uncertainty. The regulatory and policy framework must satisfy the extensive marine environmental protection requirements of the Convention, as well as taking into account relevant aspects of the SDGs and other international environmental targets, such as, e.g., the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The process for developing the framework and its implementation must be transparent and allow for stakeholder input. The development of regional environmental management plans in particular demands a collaborative and transparent approach to both the collection and sharing of environmental data. The process must ensure the full participation of developing States, not least in connection with international obligations to build technical capacity.

The importance of marine scientific research

Marine scientific research (MSR) plays a critical role in the responsible management of the oceans and its resources. It is first mentioned in the Preamble to the Convention which devotes an entire chapter (Part XIII) to this subject, as well as also addressing it for the Area in Part XI (e.g. Art. 143), and in the 1994 Agreement. As explicitly stated, it is among the priorities of the Authority notably with regard to the need to ensure “*acquisition of scientific knowledge*” Annex, Sec. 1, 5(i).

Under Art. 143(2) of the Convention, the Authority must “*promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area and coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis when available*”. The Authority may also carry out MSR in its own right (Convention Art. 143(2)).

The challenge for the Authority is to adopt strategies and to seek adequate resources to enable it to work with the wider international community and in particular with States Parties, contractors and relevant international organizations, such as IOC-UNESCO and IHO, to obtain, assess and disseminate quantitative and qualitative data and information.

The importance of capacity-building and technology transfer in realizing the common heritage for the benefit of mankind as a whole

The Convention recognizes that capacity-building and technology transfer are closely linked in practice to each other and to MSR and therefore, sets out specific requirements to deal with them accordingly. As such, it is the responsibility of the Authority to *“take measures to acquire technology and scientific knowledge relating to activities in the Area”* (Convention, Art. 144(1)(a)). Additionally, Art. 274 of the Convention sets out detailed requirements for the Authority to “ensure” a variety of both capacity-building and technology-transfer mechanisms for developing States. Furthermore, Article 273 of the Convention requires *“States [to] cooperate actively with competent international organizations and the Authority to encourage and facilitate the transfer to developing States, their nationals and the Enterprise of skills and marine technology with regard to activities in the Area.”*

The challenge for the Authority is to ensure that its capacity-building and technology transfer measures encompass the related requirements for MSR, *“subject to all legitimate interests including, inter alia, the rights and duties of holders, suppliers and recipients of technology”* (Convention, Art. 274(1)). But the Authority is also required to balance such obligations in giving due consideration to the actions for which the Convention requires it to act on its own initiative and where it must cooperate with States Parties to take action.

Facilitating the participation of developing States in activities in the Area

An important part of the mandate of the Authority is to promote the participation of developing States in activities in the Area. This is explicit in the policy guidance given by the Convention and the 1994 Agreement. Activities in the Area shall be carried out with a view to ensuring *“the expansion of opportunities for participation in such activities consistent with articles 144 and 148”* (Convention, Art. 150(c)), *“the enhancement of opportunities for all States Parties, irrespective of their social and economic systems or geographical location, to participate in the development of the resources of the Area”* (Convention, Art. 150(g)) and, *“the development of the common heritage for the benefit of mankind as a whole”* (Convention, Art. 150(i)).

The Enterprise is the organ of the Authority which shall carry out activities in the Area directly, as well as the transporting, processing and marketing of minerals from the Area (Convention, Art. 170 and Annex IV). The challenge for the Authority is to identify possible approaches to the establishment of the Enterprise in a way that meets the objectives of the Convention and the

1994 Agreement whilst at the same time taking account of the fact that the Enterprise lacks capital and is limited to operating through joint ventures.

Equitable sharing of benefits

It is the responsibility of the Authority to determine both the rate at which exploitation of the Area will be allowed and the way in which the proceeds from exploitation will be shared among the members of the international community, as well as between current and future generations (1994 Agreement, Annex, Sec.(6)). It is also the responsibility of the Authority to adopt rules, regulations and procedures for the equitable sharing of “*financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area*” (Convention, Art.140(2)) including the distribution of payments made through the Authority under Article 82(4) of the Convention, in respect of exploitation of non-living resources on the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

The challenge for the Authority in developing equitable sharing criteria is to understand the financial and economic model for deep seabed mining in an environment of considerable commercial uncertainty, including the “*trends of and the factors affecting supply, demand and prices of minerals which may be derived from the Area, bearing in mind the interests of both importing and exporting countries, and in particular of the developing States among them*” (Convention Art. 164(2)(b)).

Organizational development

In accordance with the 1994 Agreement the setting up and the functioning of the organs and subsidiary bodies of the Authority shall be based on an evolutionary approach, taking into account the functional needs of the organs and subsidiary bodies concerned in order that they may discharge effectively their respective responsibilities at various stages of the development of activities in the Area. The 1994 Agreement also emphasizes that, in order to minimize costs to States Parties, all organs and subsidiary bodies to be established under the Convention shall be cost-effective.

The challenge for the Authority is to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of the regulatory regime and be ready to perform its functions as a supervisory body in anticipation of the commencement of commercial exploitation of deep seabed minerals. The Authority must adapt, enhance and increase its structural and functioning capacities at a rate that keep pace with progress in deep sea mining, whilst ensuring that adequate and appropriate amounts of flexibility are built into the system. A major challenge to creating an Authority with all of the

necessary institutional capacities is securing adequate funding, especially during the transition from exploration to exploitation.

Transparency

Transparency is an essential element of good governance and is therefore a guiding principle for the Authority in the conduct of its business as a publicly accountable international organization. This includes transparency in the internal administration of the Authority.

Transparency plays a fundamental role in building trust in the Authority and in enhancing the Authority's accountability, credibility and support across its stakeholder base.

IV. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Strategic Directions identified by the Plan are directed primarily by:

(a) The Convention, and in particular Art. 162(2)(o)(ii), which states in relevant part: *“Priority shall be given to the adoption of rules, regulations and procedures for the exploration for and exploitation of polymetallic nodules.”*

(b) The 1994 Agreement, including:

(i) Annex, Sec. 1(5), which sets out what *“the Authority shall concentrate on between the entry into force of the Convention and the approval of the first plan of work for exploitation.”*

(ii) Annex Sec. 1(5)(f), which requires *“adoption of rules, regulations and procedures necessary for the conduct of activities in the Area as they progress”* and that *“such rules, regulations and procedures shall take into account the terms of this Agreement, the prolonged delay in commercial deep seabed mining and the likely pace of activities in the Area”*.

(iii) Annex Sec. 2 with regard to those “functions of the Enterprise” that complement the relevant priorities set out in Annex Sec. 1(5).

(iv) Annex Sec. 5 with regard to those “principles”, *“[i]n addition to the provisions of [Convention Art.] 144,”* on “transfer of technology” that complement the relevant priorities set out in Annex Sec. 1(5).

- (v) Annex Sec. 6 with regard to those “principles” for a “production policy” that complement the relevant priorities set out in Annex Sec. 1(5).

The Plan also takes into account:

- (c) The status of current implementation by the Authority of the priorities set out in the 1994 Agreement, in particular including those set out in Annex, Sec. 1(5), and in the Convention, as well as activities mandated by the Council.

- (d) The Authority’s current and projected workload, resources and capacity for the period of this Strategic Plan.

- (e) Other relevant international initiatives, policies and agreements including the 2030 Agenda.

SD 1 Realizing the role of the Authority in a global context

The Authority will:

- 1.1 Align its programmes and initiatives towards the realization of the SDGs relevant to its mandate.
- 1.2. Build a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the development of the common heritage of mankind that balances the three pillars of sustainable development.
- 1.3. Promote the effective and uniform implementation of the international legal regime of the Area including the Authority’s rules, regulations and procedures and pay particular attention to the needs of developing States.
- 1.4. Establish and strengthen strategic alliances and partnerships with relevant sub-regional, regional and global organizations to deliver a common and uniform approach, consistent with the Convention and international law, to the sustainable use of ocean resources, including the pooling of resources and funding, particularly in connection with marine scientific research, to avoid duplicating efforts and to benefit from synergies.

SD 2 Strengthening the regulatory framework for activities in the Area

The Authority will:

- 2.1. Adopt rules, regulations and procedures covering all phases of deep sea mineral exploration and exploitation based on best available information and in line with the policies, objectives, criteria, principles and provisions set out in the Convention and 1994 Agreement.
- 2.2. Ensure that the rules, regulations and procedures governing mineral exploitation incorporate best practices for environmental management and are underpinned by sound commercial principles so as to promote investment on a level playing field.
- 2.3. Ensure that the legal framework for exploitation is adaptive and flexible to new technology, information and knowledge and advances international law relating to the Area, particularly in connection with international law rules on responsibility and liability.
- 2.4. Ensure that the regulatory framework gives due consideration to and promotes the participation of developing States in activities in the Area in accordance with the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.
- 2.5. Adopt a working methodology for the development of the regulatory framework for exploitation with clear timelines and a predictable process that allows for stakeholder input.

SD 3 Protecting the marine environment

The Authority will:

- 3.1. Progressively develop a cost-effective and technically feasible regulatory framework for the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area.
- 3.2. Develop, implement and keep under review regional environmental management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration is taking place.
- 3.3. Promote public access to environmental information.
- 3.4. Develop monitoring programmes and methodologies to assess the potential for mining activities to interfere with the ecological balance of the marine environment.
- 3.5. Apply the following guiding principles:

- (a) the use of best available scientific information;
- (b) transparency and public notification;
- (c) the precautionary approach;
- (d) the application of best available techniques and best environmental practices.

SD 4 Promoting and encouraging marine scientific research in the Area

The Authority will continue to promote and encourage the conduct of MSR with respect to activities in the Area, with particular emphasis on research related to the environmental effects of activities in the Area. In particular, it will:

- 4.1. Be proactive in engaging the scientific community in conjunction with strategic stakeholders and partners through workshops, sponsored publications and access to non-confidential information and data, particularly those data relating to the marine environment.
- 4.2. Identify significant gaps in scientific knowledge to assist in defining priorities for MSR in the Area and, to the extent there are identifiable gaps in knowledge and information, set an agenda to bridge those gaps.
- 4.3. Strengthen and, as appropriate, establish strategic alliances and partnerships with relevant sub-regional, regional and global organizations, including IOC-UNESCO and IHO, to share data and information, avoid duplicating efforts and to benefit from synergies.
- 4.4. Review the status of Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its performance in the light of training, technical assistance and scientific cooperation programmes against its set objectives.
- 4.5. Compile summaries of the status of environmental baseline data and develop a process to assess the environmental implications of activities in the Area (Convention, Art. 165(d)).

SD 5 Building capacity for developing States

The Authority will:

- 5.1. Ensure that all capacity-building programmes and measures and their delivery are meaningful, tangible, efficient, effective and targeted at the needs of developing States.
- 5.2. Seek and maximize funding opportunities for the Endowment Fund and its beneficiaries, together with participation in global financing mechanisms.
- 5.3. Enable capacity-building measures to be mainstreamed into relevant initiatives ...
- 5.4. Improve efficiency of delivery of contractor training programmes and assess long-term impact for capacity-building

SD 6 Ensuring full participation by developing States

The Authority will continue to promote and seek opportunities for developing States, paying special attention to the needs of land-locked, geographically-disadvantaged, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the least developed countries (LDCs). In seeking to further those opportunities, the Authority will:

- 6.1. Undertake a review of the extent of the participation by developing States in the Area.
- 6.2. Promote such participation through targeted outreach initiatives and programmes and encouraging partnerships.
- 6.3. Identify and understand any specific barriers to participation by developing States and address them accordingly.
- 6.4. In cooperation with States Parties, *“initiate and promote (...) measures (...) providing opportunities to personnel (...) from developing States for training in marine science and technology and for their full participation in activities in the Area”* (Convention, Art. 144(2)(b)).
- 6.5. Carry out detailed resource assessment of reserved areas that are available to the Enterprise.

- 6.6. Prepare a study of the issues relating to the future operation of the Enterprise, in particular on the legal, technical and financial implications for the Authority and for States parties, and identify potential approaches to joint venture operations with the Enterprise.

SD 7 Developing equitable sharing criteria

The Authority will:

- 7.1 Monitor trends and developments relating to deep seabed mining activities, including analysis of world metal market conditions and metal prices, trends and prospects.
- 7.2 Adopt rules, regulations and procedures for the equitable sharing of 'financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area'.
- 7.3 Promote practical guidance on the distribution of payments made through the Authority under Article 82(4) of the Convention, in respect of exploitation of non-living resources on the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and, in conjunction with Member States, develop equitable sharing criteria in respect of such payments.
- 7.4 Conduct a "[s]tudy of the potential impact of mineral production from the Area on the economies of developing land-based producers of those minerals which are likely to be most seriously affected, with a view to minimizing their difficulties and assisting them in their economic adjustment, taking into account the work done in this regard by the Preparatory Commission" (1994 Agreement, Annex, Sec. 1 (5)(e)) and develop possible criteria for economic assistance in accordance with such principles and findings.

SD 8 Improving the organizational performance of the Authority

The Authority will:

- 8.1. Strengthen its institutional capacity and functioning through the allocation of sufficient resources and expertise to deliver its work programmes.
- 8.2. Facilitate a fuller, more active and more informed participation by all its Member States of the Authority and other stakeholders through the adoption of working methods which are focused, targeted and effective and delivered through enhanced transparency and accountability, leading to a more inclusive approach to improve decision-making.

- 8.3. Review work programmes and working methodologies such that they achieve the Authority's objectives within a reasonable timeframe and in a cost effective manner through improved planning and management.
- 8.4. Benchmark comparable international organizations as regards management and functioning (administration and regulatory), bearing in mind the generally wider mandate and extensive obligations placed on the Authority by the Convention.
- 8.5. Eliminate wasteful and inefficient bureaucracy.
- 8.6. Assess long-term options for funding its operations.
- 8.7. Ensure that staffing for the Secretariat is adequate and consists of the right expertise.

SD 9 Committing to transparency

The Authority will:

- 9.1. Communicate meaningful information about its work in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- 9.2. Facilitate access to non-confidential information.
- 9.3. Adopt clear, open and cost-effective working practices and ensure that the chain of responsibility and accountability of all relevant actors is fully understood and properly managed in the development, implementation and enforcement of technical, environmental, operational, scientific and safety regulations and standards for activities in the Area.
- 9.4. Build a stakeholder communications and consultation strategy and platform which facilitates open, meaningful and constructive dialogue, including on stakeholder expectations.

V. RESULTS AND PRIORITY OUTPUTS

Successful implementation of the Plan and its strategic directions will result in the delivery of:

1. A comprehensive legal framework for carrying out activities in the Area “*for the benefit of mankind as a whole*” (Convention Art. 140(1)), including, “[n]ecessary measures (...) to ensure”:
 - (a) “*effective protection for the marine environment*” (Convention Art. 145);
 - (b) “*effective protection of human life*” (Convention Art. 146);
 - (c) “*orderly, safe, and rational management of the resources of the Area, including the efficient conduct of activities in the Area and, in accordance with sound principles of conservation, the avoidance of unnecessary waste*” (Convention Art. 150(b));

drawing on the best available scientific evidence and generally accepted applicable international rules and standards.
2. An “appropriate mechanism” to “*provide for the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area (...) on a non-discriminatory basis*” (Convention Art. 140(2)), as further directed by the objectives, principles and requirements set out in Convention Annex III, Art. 13(1) and 1994 Agreement Annex, Sec. 8.
3. Ability “*to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area and (...) [to] coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis when available*” as required by Convention Art. 143(2).
4. Ability “*to acquire technology and scientific knowledge relating to activities in the Area and to promote and encourage the transfer to developing States of such technology and scientific knowledge so that all States Parties benefit therefrom*” (Convention Art. 144, and as further governed by the principles set out in 1994 Agreement Annex Sec. 5) and to “[*promote*] effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area as specifically provided for in [Part XI]” (Convention Art. 148).

5. An Authority with the institutional capacity and state of readiness to act as a “fit-for-purpose” regulator of activities in the Area, by reference to contemporary and relevant benchmarks, and a publicly accountable supervisory body that facilitates access to information and contributions by stakeholders to relevant processes.
6. Enhanced effectiveness and reach of the Authority in carrying out its functions under the Convention through effective two-way stakeholder communication.
7. An effective contribution by the Authority to the achievement of relevant SDGs by alignment of its programmes and initiatives.
8. Identification and prioritization of technical assistance needs for developing States including those to help facilitate participation in activities in the Area;
9. *“the establishment of a monitoring programme to observe, measure, evaluate and analyze, by recognized scientific methods, on a regular basis, the risks or effects of pollution of the marine environment resulting from activities in the Area, ensure that existing regulations are adequate and are complied with and coordinate the implementation of the monitoring programme”* (Convention, Art. 165(2)(h)).

Annex I

Contribution by the Authority to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs		Contribution by ISA
SDG 1	“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”	Through the distribution of payments received by the Authority in accordance with equitable sharing criteria.
SDG 4	“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all”	Through the promotion of transfer of skills and knowledge through training programmes and scholarships to least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries.
SDG 5	“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”	Encouragement of gender equality through dedicated efforts to increase opportunities for qualified women from developing States to participate in MSR programmes.
SDG 8	“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”	Through its contribution to: (i) sustainable economic growth and promotion of access of least developed countries to the Area and its resources and; (ii) the protection of labour rights for those engaged in activities in the Area in conjunction with the International Labour Organization.
SDG 9	“Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”	Through its contribution to improving the technological capabilities of developing countries.
SDG 12	“Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”	Through the encouragement of sustainable production practices.
SDG 13	“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact”	Through the development of specific research programmes designed to improve the assessment of essential ecological functions of the deep-sea oceans through long-term underwater oceanographic observatories in the Area.
SDG 14	“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”	Through its contribution to increase scientific knowledge, developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology and the advancement of a common and uniform approach, consistent with the Convention and international law, to the sustainable use of ocean resources.
SDG 16	“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”	Through: (i) the promotion of the rule of law; (ii) the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; (iii) responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels; (iv) broaden and strengthened participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.
SDG 17	“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”	Through fostered strategic partnerships including with the World Bank and IMF to enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development to support the achievement of the SDGs.