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Norad

Supporting Africa's Blue Economy

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY SEVEN VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG14 #OCEANACTION16374

My early appetite for justice motivated me to study law. I heard about the African Deep Seabed Resources (ADSR) Project in 2018 during the first regional workshop organized in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. This project is a great opportunity for the African continent to engage in the exploration and exploitation of deep seabed resources. The importance of this priority was raised by African heads of State in 2017 when they recognized the opportunities that such activities could bring in support of the development of Africa's Blue Economy.

In light of this, the ADSR project clearly provides a unique opportunity to learn and engage more amongst African government representatives as well as to engage with international and regional experts. This has proven to be insightful for the discussions held at national, regional and continental level in the context of the African Decade of Seas and Ocean.

Having the opportunity to participate in the deployment of national experts with the ISA Secretariat was an incredible experience. I have undertaken research on African ocean policies and Blue Economy issues. I also participated in several activities including attending meetings of key governing bodies, respectively the ISA Council and the meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC). With the knowledge gained during my deployment, I will apply it in my current role and assist my government.