



# SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT

ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF DEEP-SEA  
MINERALS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANKIND

2020





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# Acknowledgement

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ALL DOCUMENT DATA IS CURRENT AS OF JUNE 2020.

## ARTWORK AND DESIGN

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photograph front cover: image courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 2019 Southeastern U.S. Deep-sea Exploration

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# Table of Contents

<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Foreword from the Secretary-General</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 The International Seabed Authority at a glance</b>	<b>7</b>
The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement	10
Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan 2019-2023	11
Membership	11
Permanent missions	11
Protocol on Privileges and Immunities	11
Observers	12
<b>2 Overview of ISA activities</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>3 Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023</b>	<b>21</b>
SD 1: Realize the role of the International Seabed Authority in a global context	24
SD 2: Strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area	30
SD 3: Protect the marine environment	32
SD 4: Promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area	35
SD 5: Build capacity for developing States	36
SD 6: Ensure fully integrated participation by developing States	42
SD 7: Ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits	44
SD 8: Improve the organizational performance of the International Seabed Authority	45
SD 9: Commit to transparency	46
<b>4 Status of contracts for exploration in the Area</b>	<b>49</b>
Who is exploring where, for what?	50
Who are the contractors and sponsoring States?	53
Monitoring of exploration activities	53
Third annual meeting of contractors	54
<b>5 Governing bodies</b>	<b>57</b>
Structure and functions	58
Sessions of the governing bodies in 2019-2020	59
Twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations	61
<b>6 Administration – The Secretariat</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>7 Finance &amp; resources</b>	<b>73</b>
2019-2020 budget	74
Voluntary trust funds	75

# Abbreviations

ADSR	African Deep Seabed Resources
AMDC	African Minerals Development Centre
APEI	Area of particular environmental interest
AREA	International Seabed Area
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBNJ	Biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions
BGR	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Germany
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCZ	Clarion-Clipperton Zone
CIIC	Cook Islands Investment Corporation
CIL	Centre for International Law of the University of Singapore
CMC	China Minmetals Corporation
COLP	Centre for Oceans Law and Policy of the University of Virginia School of Law
COMRA	China Ocean Mineral Resource R&D Association
CPRM	Geological Survey of Brazil
DORD	Deep Ocean Resources Development Co., Ltd.
EFMSR	Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EMEPC	Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (Estrutura de Missão para a Extensão da Plataforma Continental)
EMP	Environmental management plan
ERP	Enterprise resource planning
EU	European Union
FC	Finance Committee
GRULAC	Group of Latin America and Caribbean countries
GSR	Global Sea Mineral Resources NV
ICAS	Institute for China-America Studies
Ifremer	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer
IGC	Intergovernmental Conference
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOM	Interoceanmetal Joint Organization
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
ISA	International Seabed Authority
ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
JOGMEC	Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation
JTRC	Joint Training and Research Centre
KIOST	Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology
KMI	Korea Maritime Institute
LDC	Least developed country
LLDC	Land-locked developing country
LTC	Legal and Technical Commission
MAR	Mid-Atlantic Ridge
Marawa	Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NORI	Nauru Ocean Resources Inc.
OMI	Ocean Minerals Inc.
OMS	Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd.
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations
PIDF	Pacific Islands Development Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
REMP	Regional environmental management plan
SD	Strategic direction
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small island developing States
SPC	Pacific Community
TOML	Tonga Offshore Mining Limited
UKSRL	UK Seabed Resources Ltd
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN DOALOS	United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
USP	University of the South Pacific
WEOG	Western European and Other States Group
WMU	World Maritime University



## Foreword from the Secretary-General

I am delighted to present to you the Annual Report of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for 2020. For the first time in 25 years, the report is presented in an entirely new format which, I believe, serves to give a much better indication of the breadth and scope of the activities of ISA over the past year. The report is also, for the first time, organized around the strategic directions of ISA as set out in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023 that was adopted by the Assembly in 2018.

In 2019, ISA celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday. That occasion offered an opportunity to reflect on and take stock of the achievements of the past quarter of a century. It was also a moment to recall that the guiding principles under which ISA was brought into existence are the evolutionary approach and the spirit of consensus as reflected in the 1994 Agreement. These principles have been applied consistently over the past twenty-five years and all the many achievements of ISA are reflective of the long, slow process of consensus-building.

**Mr. Michael W. Lodge**  
Secretary-General, ISA

ISA in 2020 is very different to the ISA that existed in 1994. Its growing maturity is reflected in the Strategic Plan and the associated High-Level Action Plan as well as in the increased scope of its activities. At the same time, there is much more to do, particularly in terms of responding to the needs of our member States and fulfilling the mandate of ISA relating to marine scientific research in the Area. We have already made important steps in these directions by proposing for the consideration of the Assembly an Action Plan for ISA contribution to the UN Decade for Ocean Science as well as by conducting the most detailed analysis since UNCLOS entered into force of the capacity-building needs of developing countries members of ISA.

In a year that has presented unexpected challenges for all of us, I wish to express my appreciation to all the members of ISA for their continued support for the objectives set out in UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. I also express my sincere thanks to the staff of the Secretariat, without whom none of the activities described in this report could have taken place.



# 1 THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY AT A GLANCE





## At a glance

ISA provides an international and transparent forum to regulate and manage all mineral resources related activities and ensure protection of the marine environment in the “Area”, the deep seabed and subsoil beyond national jurisdiction, for the benefit of all humanity.



The research undertaken as part of exploration contracts in the Area is critical to realizing all aspects of the Blue Economy, including knowledge of marine biodiversity and ecological processes.



**168 members**  
167 States and the European Union

**92 observers**



Budget 2019–2020  
**US\$18,235,850**

+ **Voluntary trust funds** for members of the Council, the LTC and the FC to ensure participation from developing States, and for the Special Representative for the Enterprise

+ **Endowment Fund** for Marine Scientific Research in the Area

ISA was established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the subsequent 1994 Agreement.

### ISA MANDATE

The mission of ISA is to organize and control activities in the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction to ensure the safe and rational management of its mineral resources in line with UNCLOS and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This means ensuring that commercial deep-seabed mining follows the highest environmental standards and that the economic benefits are equitably shared among all States.

## ISA & the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

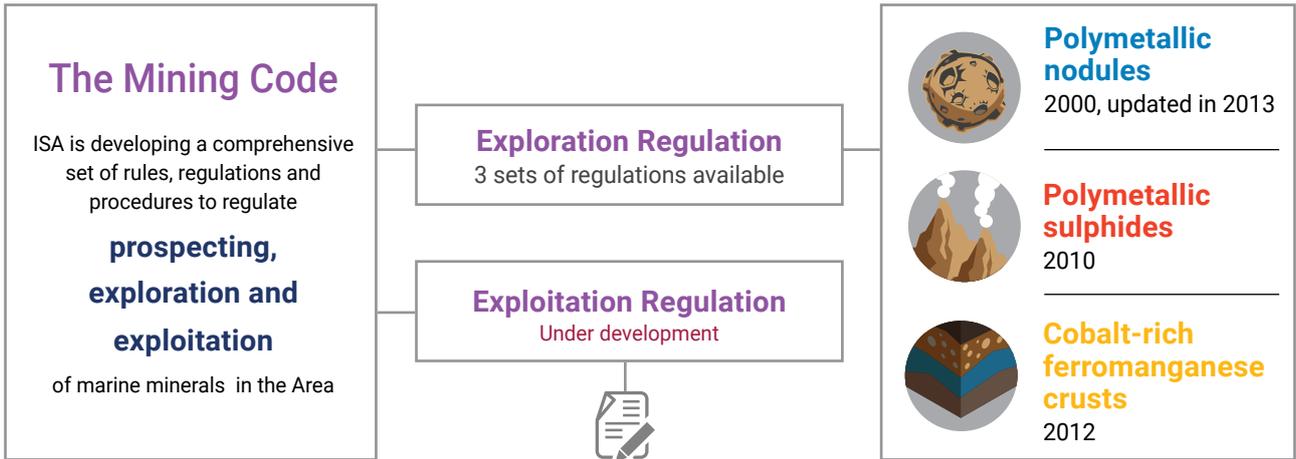


ISA has registered 7 voluntary commitments to support the implementation of SDG 14

- 1 Enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research  
#OceanAction15467
- 2 SG’s Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research  
#OceanAction15796
- 3 Deep-sea long-term observatories  
#OceanAction17746
- 4 Deep-sea taxonomic atlases  
#OceanAction17776
- 5 Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth  
#OceanAction16538
- 6 Supporting Africa’s Blue Economy  
#OceanAction16374
- 7 Mapping Africa’s deep-sea resources  
#OceanAction16494

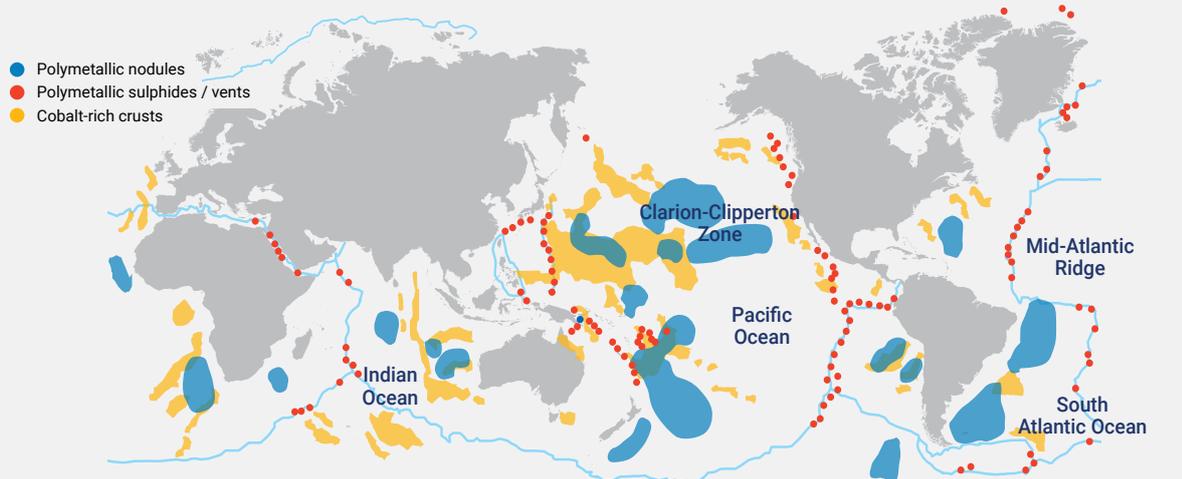


ISA contributes toward the implementation of 9 of the 17 SDGs



## Global distribution of seafloor mineral resources

Areas being explored under contract to the ISA are located in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), the Indian Ocean, the Mid Atlantic Ridge (MAR), the South Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean



**30 exploration contracts**  
granted by ISA to 22 countries, including 12 developing States

**1.4 million km<sup>2</sup> being explored**

**1.4 million km<sup>2</sup> protected from mining in the CCZ**

**1.3 million km<sup>2</sup> of reserved area**  
contributed by explorers to developing States  
891,138 km<sup>2</sup> currently available



All data and information related to the deep seabed and the associated water column collected during exploration activities is systematically made available in ISA **DeepData** database.

## Strategic Plan 2019-2023

To realize its mandate, ISA has produced a Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2023 built around 9 strategic directions

1. Realize the role of ISA in a global context
2. Strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area
3. Protect the marine environment
4. Promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area
5. Build capacity for developing States
6. Ensure fully integrated participation by developing States
7. Ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits
8. Improve the organizational performance of ISA
9. Commit to transparency

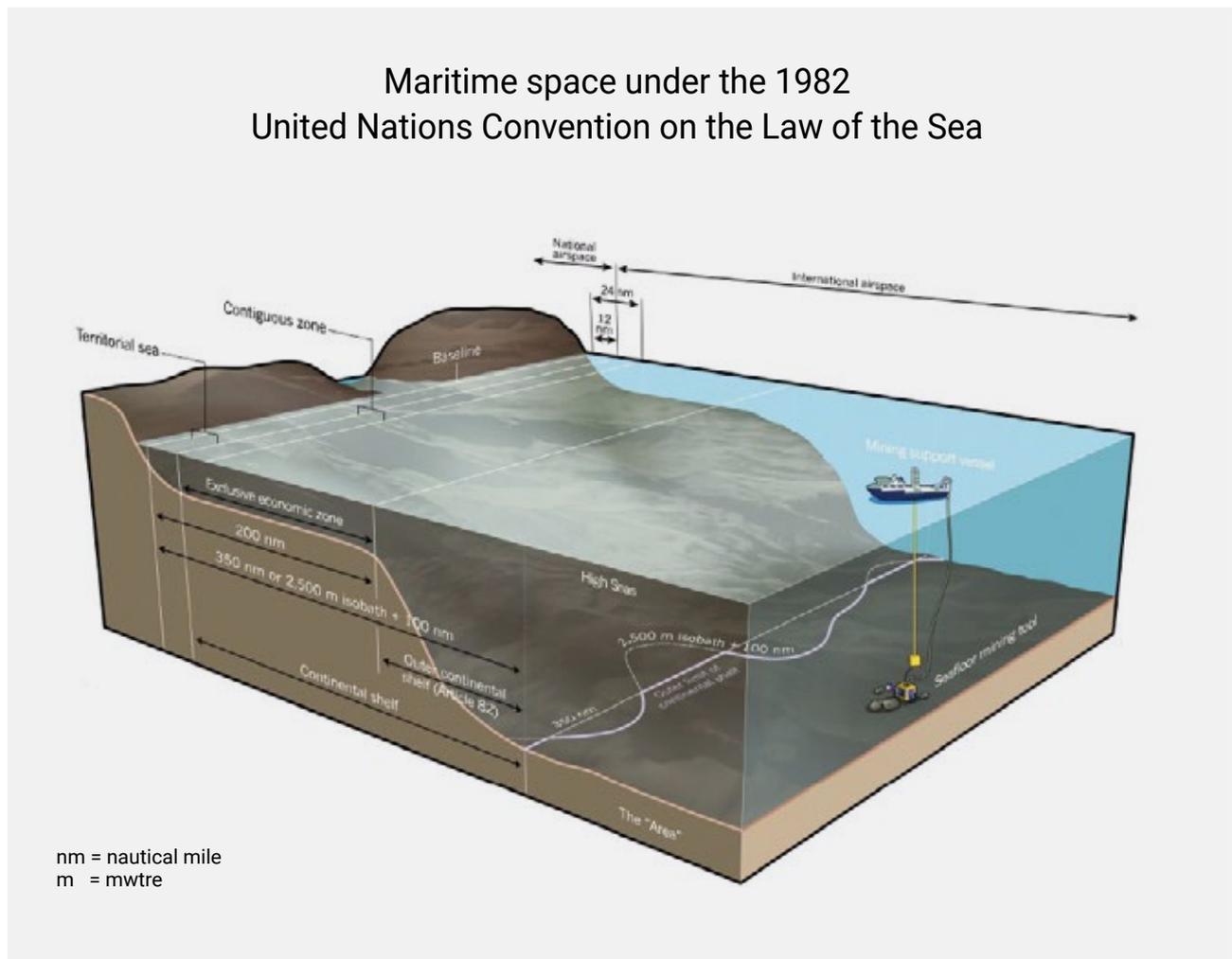
## The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization that was established in 1994 under UNCLOS and the subsequent 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS (1994 Agreement).

It is the organization through which States parties to UNCLOS organize and control activities in the "Area".

ISA thus has the exclusive mandate to manage deep-sea mineral resources for the benefit of humankind.

ISA has a number of other obligations, including to take necessary measures with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities,<sup>1</sup> to distribute to States parties payments or in-kind contributions derived from exploitation of non-living resources of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles,<sup>2</sup> and to promote and encourage marine scientific research concerning the Area and its resources as well as co-ordinate and disseminate the results of research and analysis when available.<sup>3</sup>



The Area is defined as the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

<sup>1</sup> UNCLOS, art.145.

<sup>2</sup> UNCLOS, art.82 (4).

<sup>3</sup> UNCLOS, art.143 (2).

## Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan 2019-2023

The ISA Strategic Plan<sup>4</sup> and corresponding High-Level Action Plan<sup>5</sup> provide an overview of the key priorities and high-level actions needed to achieve the strategic objectives of the organization for the period 2019 to 2023.

The plan includes nine strategic directions that will guide ISA work in the context of global challenges and the SDGs. An update on the implementation of the Strategic Plan is presented on pages 22-46.

## Membership

All parties to UNCLOS are automatically members of ISA.<sup>6</sup> As of June 2020, there were 168 parties to UNCLOS (167 States and the European Union) and thus 168 members of ISA.

On the same date, there were 150 parties to the 1994 Agreement (149 States and the European Union). There are therefore still 18 members of ISA (see table p.15) that became parties to UNCLOS before the adoption of the 1994 Agreement and that have yet to become parties to it.

Since Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement are to be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument, the provisions of the 1994 Agreement shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency between the two. Although members of ISA that are not parties to the 1994 Agreement necessarily participate in the work of ISA, becoming a party to the 1994 Agreement would remove any potential conflict and they are strongly encouraged to become parties at the earliest opportunity.

## Permanent missions

As of June 2020, 27 States and the European Union maintained permanent missions to ISA (see table p.15). The Secretary-General holds regular briefing sessions for the permanent missions on the progress of ISA work.

## Protocol on Privileges and Immunities

The Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of ISA was adopted by the Assembly on 27 March 1998 and entered into force on 31 March 2003.

As of June 2020, 47 members are parties to the Protocol while a further 11 States have signed but not yet ratified it (see table p.15).



Photo: Franz Dejon/IISD

<sup>4</sup> ISBA/24/A/10.

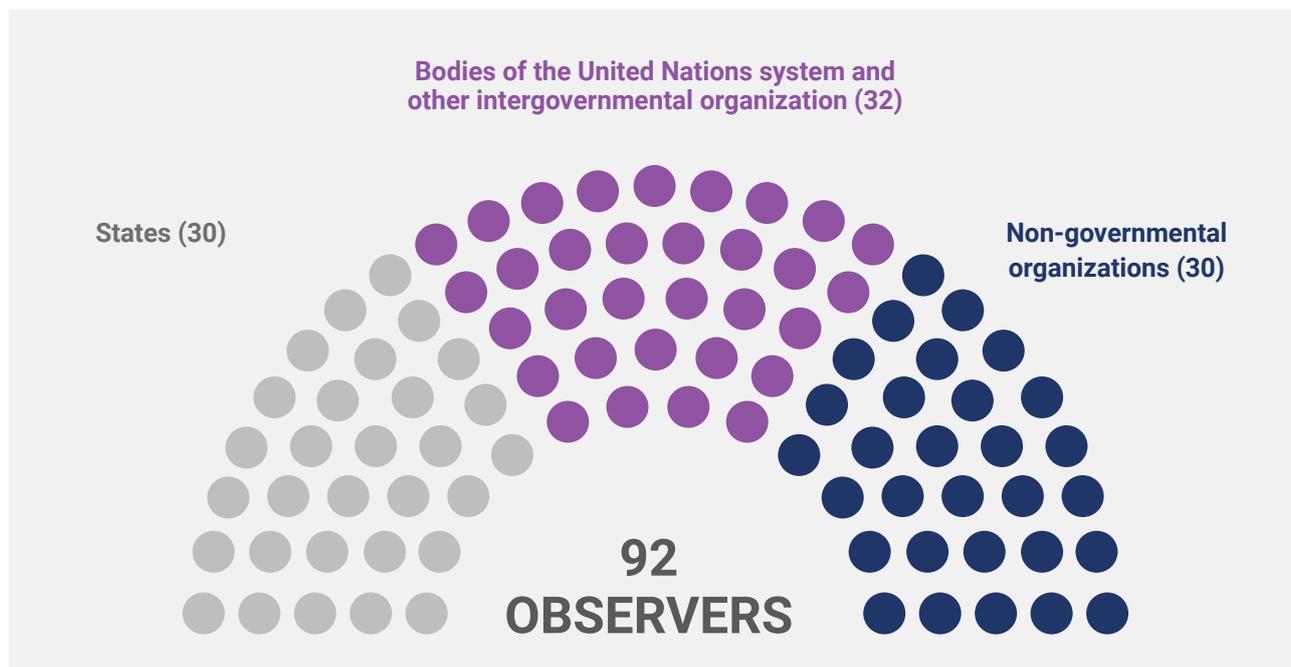
<sup>5</sup> ISBA/25/A/15.

<sup>6</sup> UNCLOS, art.156 (2).

## Observers

ISA collaborates with key stakeholders from governments and the private sector, international and regional organization, civil society and academia. As of June 2020, ISA has granted observer status to 30 States that are not party to UNCLOS. In addition, 32 bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental

organization as well as 30 non-governmental organizations also have observer status, enabling them to participate in meetings of the Council and the Assembly. During the 25<sup>th</sup> session, in 2019, the Assembly approved the guidelines for applications for observer status for non-governmental organizations.<sup>7</sup>



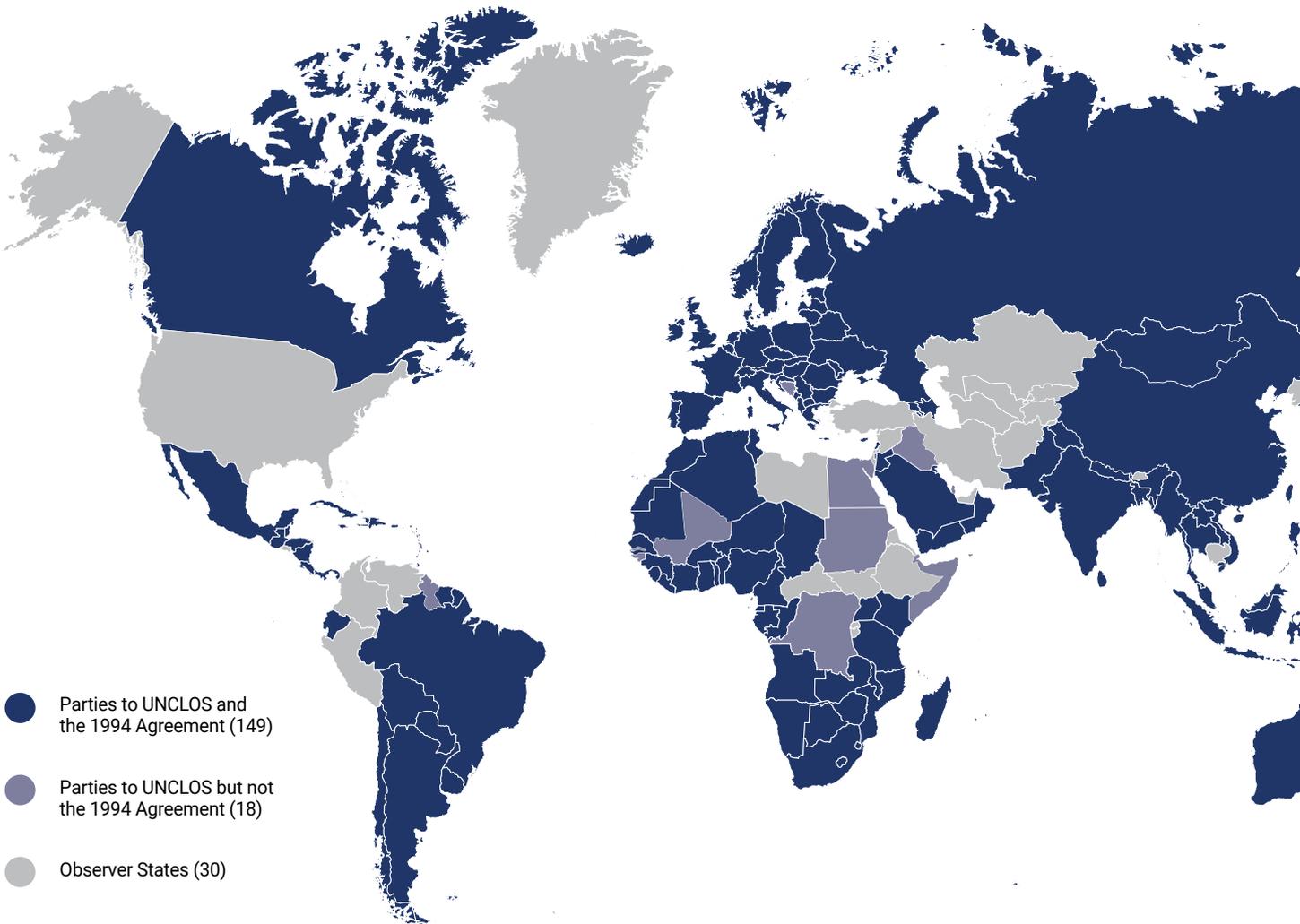
States (30) ●	Bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organization (32) ●	Non-governmental organizations (30) ●
Afghanistan	United Nations	Conservation International
Andorra	United Nations Environment Programme	Greenpeace International
Bhutan	United Nations Development Programme	International Association of Drilling Contractors
Burundi	International Labour Organization	International Ocean Institute
Cambodia	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	InterRidge
Central African Republic	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Law of the Sea Institute
Colombia	World Health Organization	World Wildlife Fund International
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	World Bank	International Cable Protection Committee
El Salvador	International Monetary Fund	Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia School of Law

<sup>7</sup> ISBA/25/A/16.

<b>States (30)</b> ●	<b>Bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organization (32)</b> ●	<b>Non-governmental organizations (30)</b> ●
Eritrea	International Civil Aviation Organization	Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
Ethiopia	Universal Postal Union	Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards
Holy See	International Telecommunication Union	World Ocean Council
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	World Meteorological Organization	Sargasso Sea Commission
Israel	International Maritime Organization	Fish Reef Project
Kazakhstan	World Intellectual Property Organization	International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions
Kyrgyzstan	International Fund for Agricultural Development	Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary
Libya	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	African Minerals Development Centre
Liechtenstein	International Atomic Energy Agency	Durham University's Centre for Borders Research
Peru	Commonwealth	RESOLVE
Rwanda	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	The Pew Charitable Trusts
San Marino	Inter-American Development Bank	Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative
South Sudan	International Hydrographic Organization	International Policy Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Syrian Arab Republic	International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund	Center for Polar and Deep Ocean Development, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Tajikistan	Interoceanmetal Joint Organization	International Marine Minerals Society
Turkey	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies
Turkmenistan	OSPAR Commission	Mining Standards International
United Arab Emirates	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries	Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology
United States of America	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific	Earthworks
Uzbekistan	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea
Venezuela	The Pacific Community	Ocean Society of India
	World Trade Organization	
	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	

*Bodies that may participate as observers in the Assembly are described in rule 82, paragraph 1 of the Rules of procedure of the Assembly.*

<b>168</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>47</b> Parties	<b>11</b> Signatories	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>
						
<b>MEMBERS</b> 167 States and the European Union	<b>MEMBERS PARTIES TO THE 1994 AGREEMENT</b> 149 States and the European Union	<b>PROTOCOL ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES</b>		<b>MEMBERS WITH A PERMANENT MISSION</b>	<b>MEMBERS THAT HAVE MADE DEPOSITS IN LINE WITH ART.84 OF UNCLOS</b>	<b>OBSERVER STATES</b>



**The Secretary-General continuously encourages:**

- Relevant States to become parties to the 1994 Agreement at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Relevant members to take the necessary steps to become parties to the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities.
- All coastal States to deposit their charts or lists of coordinates as soon as possible after the establishment of the outer limit lines of their continental shelf.

## Member States



Albania	●	●		
Algeria	●		●	
Angola	●			
Antigua and Barbuda	●	●	●	
Argentina	●	●	●	
Armenia	●			
Australia	●			●
Austria	●	●		
Azerbaijan	●			
Bahamas	●	●		
Bahrain	●			●
Bangladesh	●		●	
Barbados	●			
Belarus	●			
Belgium	●		●	
Belize	●			
Benin	●			
Bolivia	●			
(Plurinational State of)				
Bosnia and Herzegovina				
Botswana	●			
Brazil	●	●	●	
Brunei Darussalam	●			
Bulgaria	●	●		
Burkina Faso	●	●		
Cabo Verde	●			
Cameroon	●	●	●	
Canada	●			
Chad	●			
Chile	●	●	●	
China	●		●	
Comoros				
Congo	●			
Cook Islands	●			
Costa Rica	●		●	
Côte d'Ivoire	●	●		
Croatia	●	●		
Cuba	●	●	●	
Cyprus	●			
Czech Republic	●	●		
DR Congo				
Denmark	●	●		
Djibouti				
Dominica				
Dominican Republic	●		●	
Ecuador	●			
Egypt		●		
Equatorial Guinea	●			
Estonia	●	●		
Eswatini	●			
Fiji	●			
Finland	●	●		
France	●	●	●	●*
Gabon	●		●	
Gambia				
Georgia	●	●		
Germany	●	●	●	
Ghana	●	●		

Greece	●	●		
Grenada	●			
Guatemala	●			
Guinea	●	●		
Guinea-Bissau		●		
Guyana				
Haiti	●			
Honduras	●			
Hungary	●			
Iceland	●			
India	●	●		
Indonesia	●	●		
Iraq		●		
Ireland	●	●	●	
Italy	●	●	●	
Jamaica	●	●	●	
Japan	●		●	
Jordan	●	●		
Kenya	●	●		
Kiribati	●			
Kuwait	●			
Lao PDR	●			
Latvia	●			
Lebanon	●			
Lesotho	●			
Liberia	●			
Lithuania	●	●		
Luxembourg	●			
Madagascar	●			
Malawi	●			
Malaysia	●			
Maldives	●			
Mali				
Malta	●	●		
Marshall Islands				
Mauritania	●			
Mauritius	●	●	●	
Mexico	●		●	●
Micronesia	●			
Monaco	●			
Mongolia	●			
Montenegro	●			
Morocco	●			
Mozambique	●	●		
Myanmar	●			
Namibia	●	●		
Nauru	●		●	
Nepal	●			
Netherlands	●	●		
New Zealand	●			
Nicaragua	●			
Niger	●			
Nigeria	●	●	●	
Niue	●			●
North Macedonia	●	●		
Norway	●	●		
Oman	●	●		
Pakistan	●	●	●	

Palau	●			
Panama	●	●	●	
Papua New Guinea	●			
Paraguay	●			
Philippines	●			●
Poland	●	●		
Portugal	●	●		
Qatar	●			
Republic of Korea	●		●	
Republic of Moldova	●			
Romania	●	●		
Russian Federation	●		●	
Saint Kitts and Nevis				
Saint Lucia				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				
Samoa	●			
Sao Tome and Principe				
Saudi Arabia	●	●		
Senegal	●	●		
Serbia	●			
Seychelles	●			
Sierra Leone	●			
Singapore	●			
Slovakia	●	●		
Slovenia	●	●		
Solomon Islands	●			
Somalia				
South Africa	●		●	
Spain	●	●	●	
Sri Lanka	●			
Sudan		●		
Suriname	●			
Sweden	●			
Switzerland	●			
State of Palestine	●			
Thailand	●			
Timor-Leste	●			
Togo	●	●		
Tonga	●			
Trinidad and Tobago	●	●	●	
Tunisia	●			
Tuvalu	●			●
Uganda	●			
Ukraine	●			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	●	●		
Tanzania	●			
Uruguay	●	●		
Vanuatu	●			
Viet Nam	●			
Yemen	●			
Zambia	●			
Zimbabwe	●			

\* France: charts deposited with respect to Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyana, New Caledonia and the Kerguelen Islands



# 2 OVERVIEW OF ISA ACTIVITIES



# Overview of ISA activities

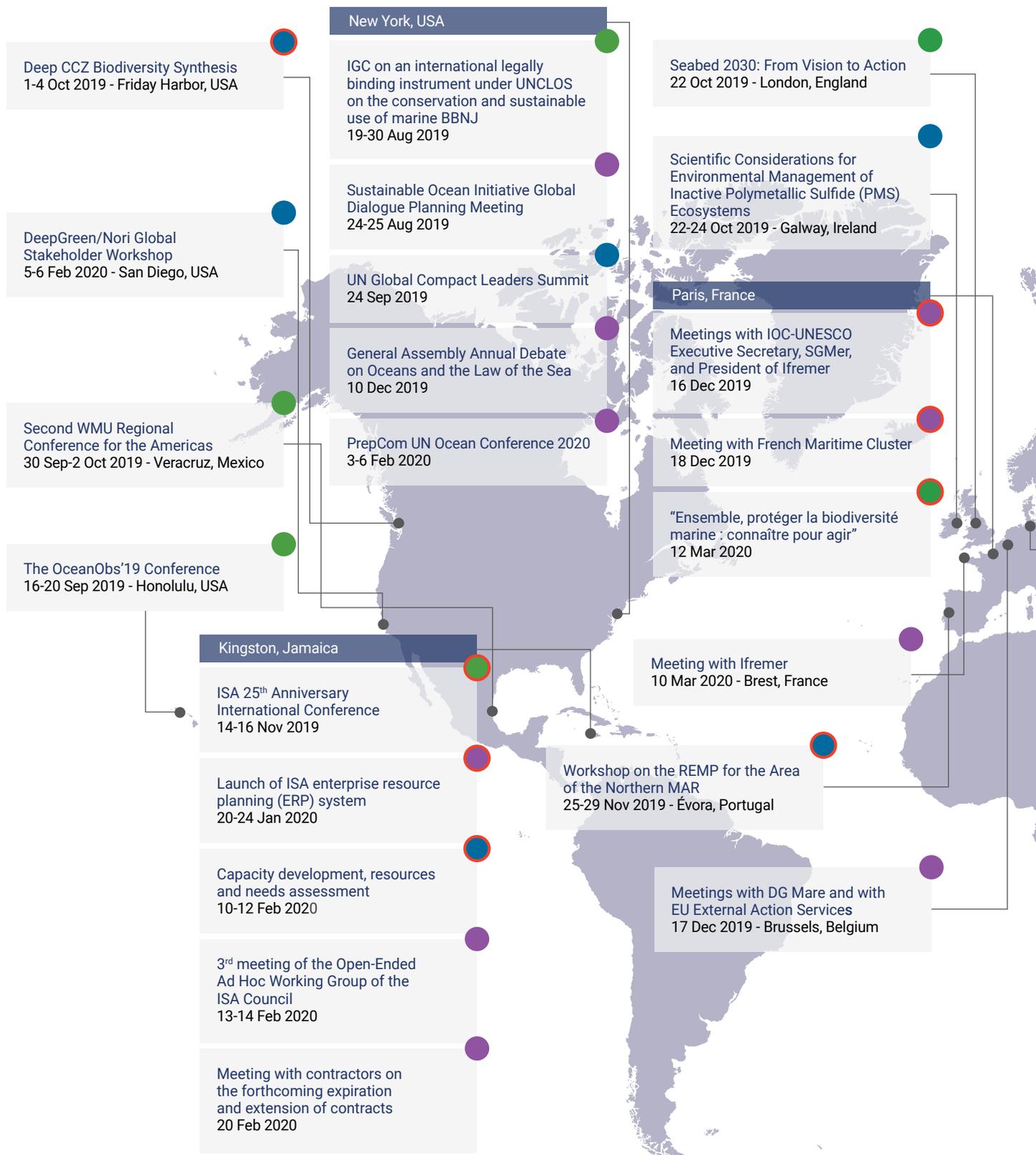
July 2019 - June 2020

## ISA organized or co-organized

- 6 Workshops
- 1 Conference
- 15 Meetings

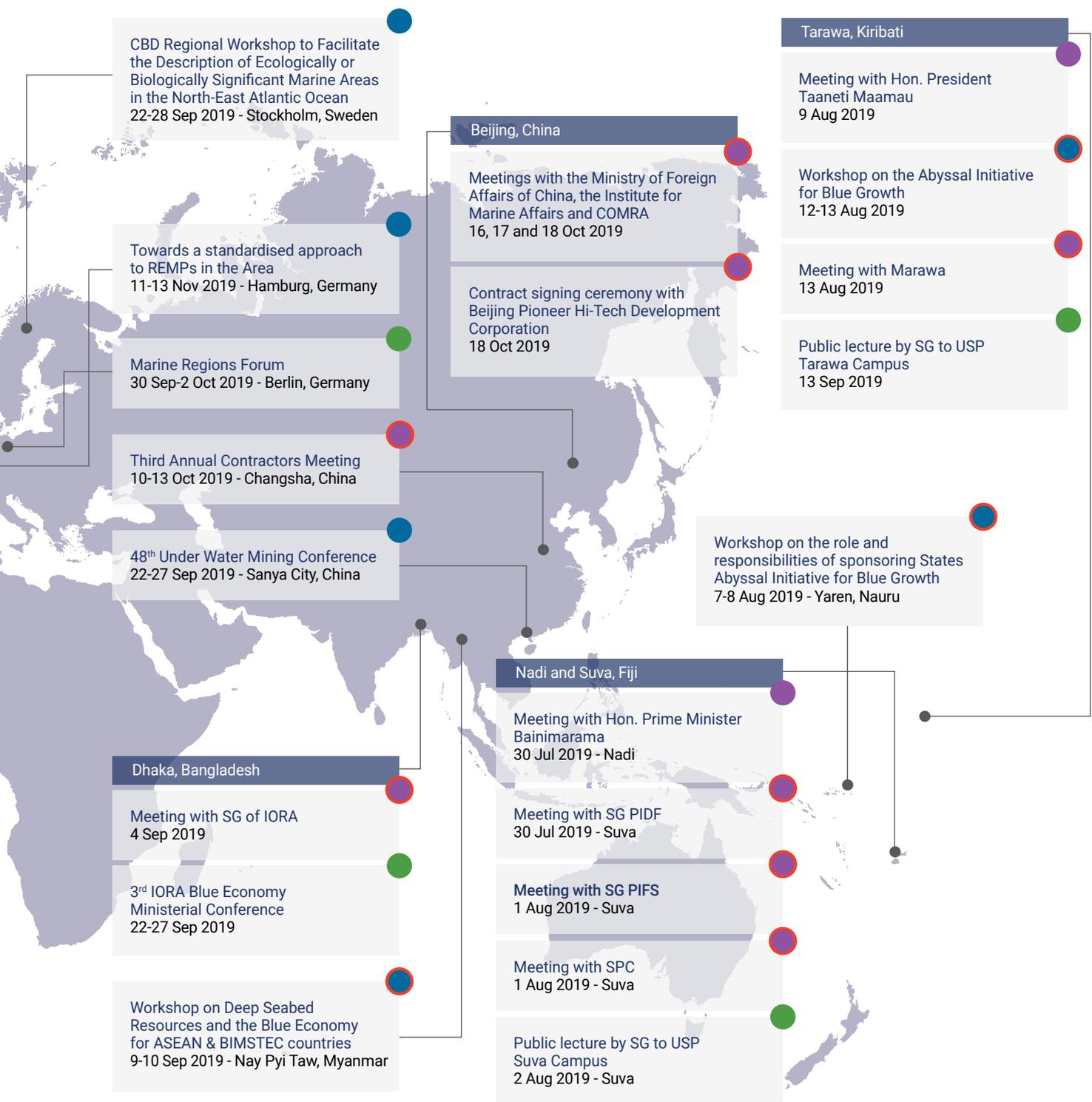
## ISA participated in

- 7 Workshops
- 9 Conferences
- 17 Meetings



### Online activities

- Workshop on data sharing between UN agencies as a contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030  
20 April 2020
- STAP-World Bank webinar: Harnessing global environmental benefits from mines to markets  
20 April 2020
- ISA Finance Committee meeting on the 2021-2022 budget  
6 May 2020
- Briefing by SG to Permanent Representatives to ISA  
15 May 2020
- Briefing by SG to P-SIDS group  
20 May 2020
- High-Level Meeting on Sustainable Ocean Business  
2 Jun 2020
- ISA/UN-HORLLS Ambassadorial Briefing LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS  
25 Jun 2020





# 3

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023



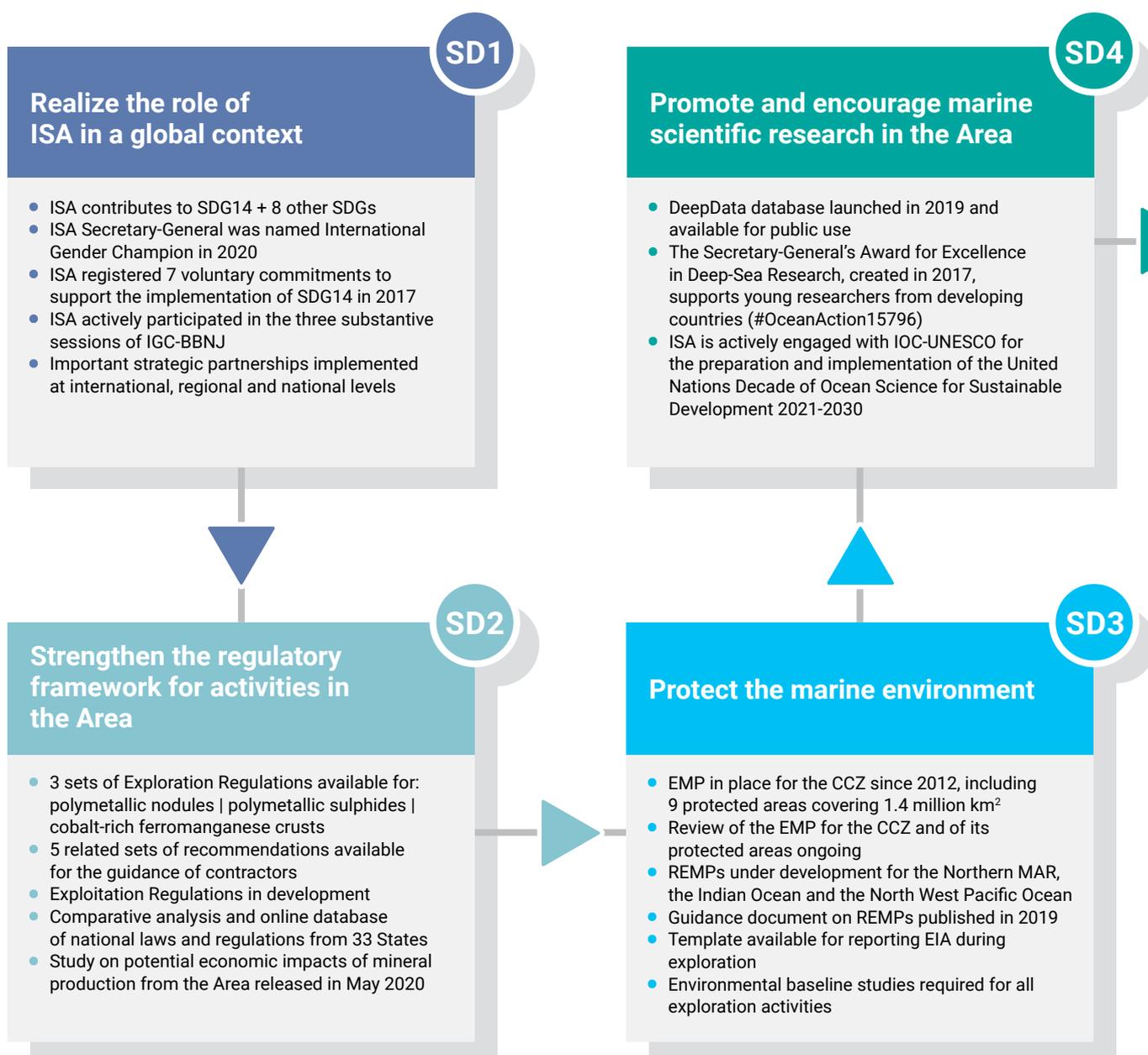
# Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Developed in consultation with ISA members and other relevant stakeholders, the Strategic Plan of ISA for the period 2019-2023 was adopted by the Assembly at its 24<sup>th</sup> session in July 2018.<sup>1</sup>

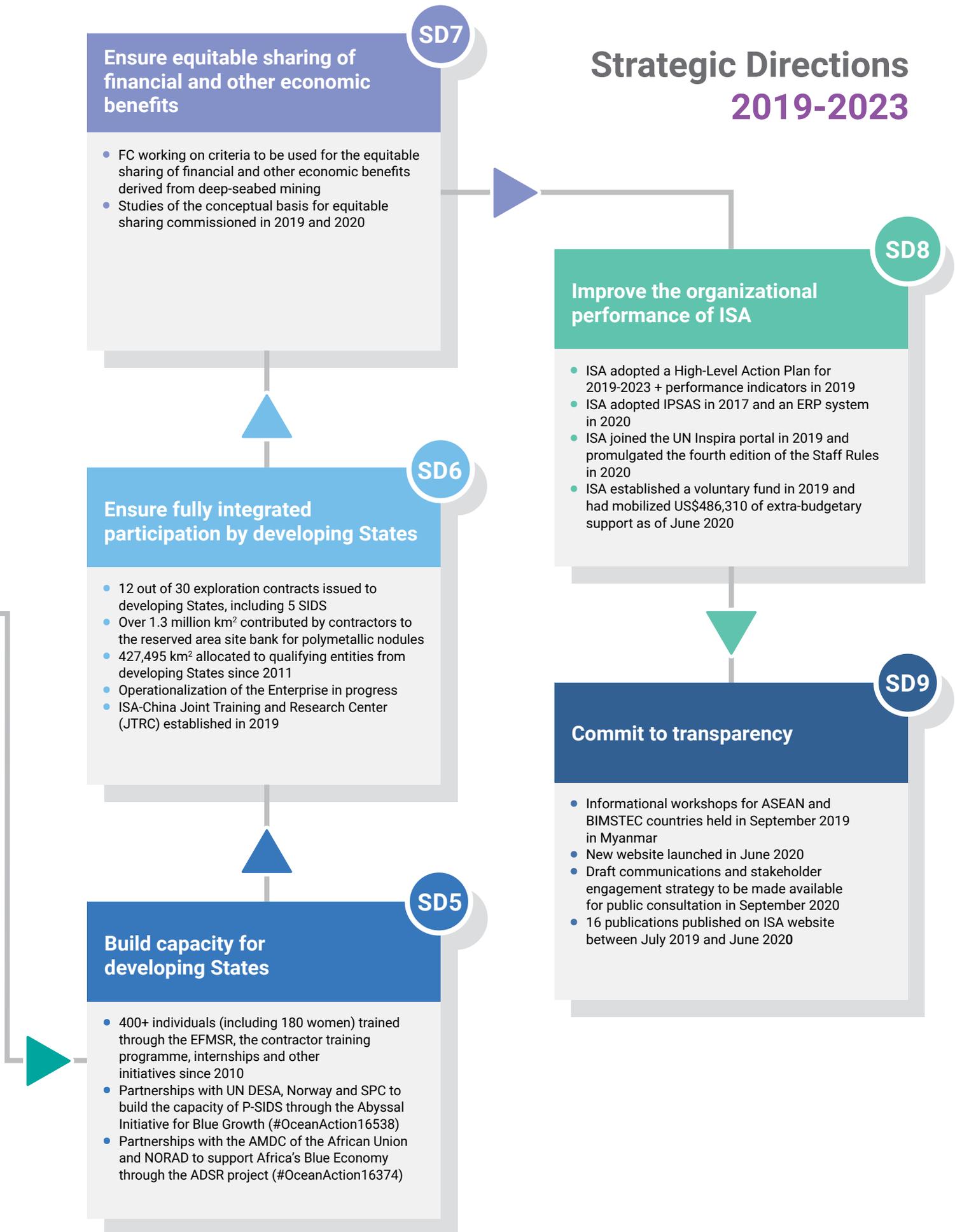
The plan includes nine strategic directions that will guide the work of ISA over the five-year period. The actions necessary to achieve the strategic objectives listed in the Strategic Plan have been further identified and complemented by corresponding expected outputs in the High-Level Action Plan adopted by the Assembly at its 25<sup>th</sup> session in July 2019.

A snapshot of the nine strategic directions is presented below.

<sup>1</sup> ISBA/24/A/10



# Strategic Directions 2019-2023



SD7

## Ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits

- FC working on criteria to be used for the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from deep-seabed mining
- Studies of the conceptual basis for equitable sharing commissioned in 2019 and 2020

SD6

## Ensure fully integrated participation by developing States

- 12 out of 30 exploration contracts issued to developing States, including 5 SIDS
- Over 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup> contributed by contractors to the reserved area site bank for polymetallic nodules
- 427,495 km<sup>2</sup> allocated to qualifying entities from developing States since 2011
- Operationalization of the Enterprise in progress
- ISA-China Joint Training and Research Center (JTRC) established in 2019

SD5

## Build capacity for developing States

- 400+ individuals (including 180 women) trained through the EFMSR, the contractor training programme, internships and other initiatives since 2010
- Partnerships with UN DESA, Norway and SPC to build the capacity of P-SIDS through the Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth (#OceanAction16538)
- Partnerships with the AMDC of the African Union and NORAD to support Africa's Blue Economy through the ADSR project (#OceanAction16374)

SD8

## Improve the organizational performance of ISA

- ISA adopted a High-Level Action Plan for 2019-2023 + performance indicators in 2019
- ISA adopted IPSAS in 2017 and an ERP system in 2020
- ISA joined the UN Inspira portal in 2019 and promulgated the fourth edition of the Staff Rules in 2020
- ISA established a voluntary fund in 2019 and had mobilized US\$486,310 of extra-budgetary support as of June 2020

SD9

## Commit to transparency

- Informational workshops for ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries held in September 2019 in Myanmar
- New website launched in June 2020
- Draft communications and stakeholder engagement strategy to be made available for public consultation in September 2020
- 16 publications published on ISA website between July 2019 and June 2020

## Realize the role of the International Seabed Authority in a global context

ISA is committed to contribute to the timely and effective achievement of the 2030 Agenda “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,<sup>2</sup> including SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

The contribution of ISA will be the result of the implementation of the economic, environmental and social mandates given to it by UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. As indicated in the Strategic Plan for 2019-2023,<sup>3</sup> such mandates include:



Ensure that activities in the Area are carried out for the benefit of humankind as a whole.<sup>4</sup>



Ensure effective protection for the marine environment<sup>5</sup> and of human life.<sup>6</sup>



Promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area<sup>7</sup> and the effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area.<sup>8</sup>



Foster healthy development of the world economy and balanced growth of international trade.<sup>9</sup>



Ensure the development of the resources of the Area,<sup>10</sup> the enhancement of opportunities for all States parties<sup>11</sup> and the development of the common heritage for the benefit of humankind as a whole.

ISA is also committed to contributing to the implementation of international law as reflected in UNCLOS, including through active engagement with its members to achieve effective and uniform implementation of relevant international legal instruments through State practice.

The work of ISA in that regard is reported annually through the information provided by the Secretary-General to the United Nations General Assembly and the meeting of the States parties to UNCLOS. Furthermore, ISA contributes systematically to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and to the United Nations Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.<sup>12</sup>

### The resolution A/RES/74/19 on oceans and the law of the sea adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 2019:

- “Reaffirm[s] the importance of the work of the International Seabed Authority (the Authority) in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Part XI Agreement)” (p.8)
- “Recognizes the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Authority by articles 143 and 145 of the Convention, which refer to marine scientific research and protection of the marine environment in the Area, respectively” (para.68, p.16); and
- “Commends the progress in the work of the Authority” (para.74, p.17)

<sup>2</sup> UNGA, Resolution 70/1.

<sup>3</sup> ISBA/24/A/10, para.9.

<sup>4</sup> UNCLOS, art.140(1)

<sup>5</sup> UNCLOS, art.145

<sup>6</sup> UNCLOS, art.146

<sup>7</sup> UNCLOS, art.143

<sup>8</sup> UNCLOS, art.14

<sup>9</sup> UNCLOS, art.150

<sup>10</sup> UNCLOS, art.150(b)

<sup>11</sup> UNCLOS, art.150(g)

<sup>12</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/74/19>

## Participation in IGC-BBNJ

The Secretariat of ISA has participated in the three substantive sessions held so far of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the

Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (IGC-BBNJ).

### Side event at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC-BBNJ

#### ISA DeepData: Sharing Biodiversity Knowledge for the Benefit of Humanity

26 August 2019



Photo by IISD/END

ISA convened a side event in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of London, the French Natural History Museum and the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea as well as delegates from Norway, Algeria and the UK, to promote the DeepData database (see p.35), which was publicly launched in July 2019 during the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the ISA Assembly.

Participants discussed how the environmental information of DeepData, including the biodiversity data, can contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, including through capacity-building and scientific partnerships. The event explored possible cooperative initiatives with scientific communities and other stakeholders that could enhance deep-sea biodiversity knowledge by building on the work of ISA. It also considered opportunities that DeepData could create in the context of the BBNJ.

Opening the event, Co-Chair Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera, ISA Deputy to the Secretary-General, noted:

*“The birth of the ISA database, DeepData, represents the collective efforts by the contractors, the ISA Legal and Technical Commission and the ISA Secretariat, to enable ISA to connect its knowledge of the deep-sea environment and its resources for the benefit of all of humanity. With the launch of DeepData, the environmental data, including biodiversity information, can be accessed by the public around the world.”*

## ISA contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Through:

- The promotion of the rule of law
- The development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making
- Strengthened participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

The contribution of ISA in broadening and strengthening participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance is central. Through training programmes, ISA ensures the promotion of transfer of skills and knowledge to developing States and particularly LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS.

- By increasing scientific knowledge, research capacity and the transfer of marine technology
- Through the advancement of a common and uniform approach to the sustainable use of ocean resources

### Voluntary commitments to support the implementation of SDG 14



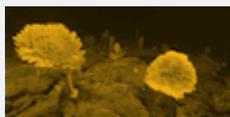
The first United Nations Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 was held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. The Conference devoted special attention to the health of the oceans and seas and called upon stakeholders to make voluntary commitments to help advance the implementation of SDG 14. ISA registered seven voluntary commitments.



- 1 Enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research  
#OceanAction15467



- 2 SG's Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research  
#OceanAction15796



- 3 Deep-sea long-term observatories  
#OceanAction17746



- 4 Deep-sea taxonomic atlases  
#OceanAction17776



- 5 Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth  
#OceanAction16538



- 6 Supporting Africa's Blue Economy  
#OceanAction16374



- 7 Mapping Africa's deep-sea resources  
#OceanAction16494



Important efforts are made to foster strategic partnerships and alliances with international and regional organizations with a view to ensuring a consistent approach to the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the sustainable development of ocean resources in line with UNCLOS and the 2030 Agenda.

Through the equitable distribution of financial and economic benefits from mining among all States

Through training programmes and scholarships that promote the transfer of skills and knowledge



- By contributing to sustainable economic growth and enabling access to the Area and its resources to least developed countries
- Through the protection of labour rights for those engaged in activities in the Area in conjunction with the International Labour Organization



**International Gender Champion**  
<https://genderchampions.com>



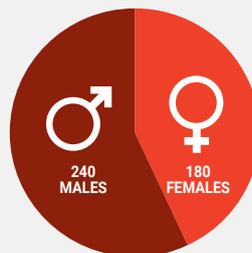
*“ISA has a clear vision of women from developing States playing a central role in marine scientific research. Together, we must build the capacity of women and girls towards sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth to deliver a sustainable future for all.”*

**Michael W. Lodge**  
 Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority

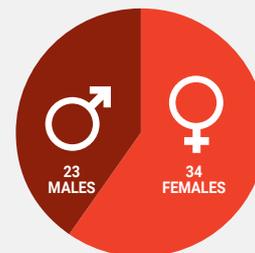
In March 2020, ISA Secretary-General was recognized as one of the International Gender Champions, joining a global network of female and male leaders and decision-makers determined to break down gender barriers and make gender equality a working reality in their spheres of influence.

In addition to the Panel Parity Pledge, which calls on gender champions to challenge the possible lack of gender balance on panels they are invited to be part of, the Secretary-General also made the following two pledges:

- Ensure that the ISA Secretariat reaches gender parity including at the most senior levels (P5 and above) by the end of 2021.
- Enhance the role of women in marine scientific research through focused capacity-building initiatives such as the contractor training programme, the Endowment Fund, internships and the implementation of ISA’s Voluntary Commitments to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



ISA trainees since 2010



ISA Secretariat staff as of June 2020

Strategic partnerships 2019-2020





Photos: GEOMAR / ISA

## Strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area

Over the last 25 years, ISA has developed a comprehensive set of rules, regulations and procedures dealing with prospecting and exploration for mineral resources in the Area. As exploration activities progress, a major effort is currently underway to develop exploitation regulations involving a broad stakeholder consultation. Once agreed, the exploitation regulations will join the adopted exploration regulations to complete what will become a complete “Mining Code” for the Area.

### Exploration regulations

ISA has adopted three sets of exploration regulations covering the prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules (2000 and revised in 2013),<sup>13</sup> polymetallic sulphides (2010)<sup>14</sup> and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (2012).<sup>15</sup>

The regulations are supplemented by a series of recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States issued by the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) and periodically updated. Recommendations related to the following topics are currently available:

- Training programmes under plans of work for exploration<sup>16</sup>
- The assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area (updated in 2020)<sup>17</sup>
- The reporting of actual and direct exploration expenditure<sup>18</sup>
- The content, format and structure of annual reports<sup>19</sup>
- The relinquishment of areas under the exploration contracts for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts<sup>20</sup>

## Exploitation regulations and standards and guidelines

ISA began to develop regulations to govern the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area in 2014 with a series of scoping studies. The aim of the regulations is to balance economic needs with rigorous environmental protection. Once in place, the regulations will require any entity planning to undertake activities in the international seabed area to abide by stringent global environmental requirements. The regime to be established also requires a portion of the financial rewards and other economic benefits from mining to be paid to ISA to then be shared according to “equitable sharing criteria”.

Draft exploitation regulations have been prepared by the LTC following a transparent process and a series of broad public consultations.<sup>21</sup> The draft regulations will need to be adopted by the Council before any contract for mineral exploitation can be issued. The Council has set itself a target date of 2020 to adopt the regulations. Following consideration of the draft prepared by the LTC at the second part of the 25<sup>th</sup> session in July 2019, the Council agreed to open the regulations to a further round of consultations.<sup>22</sup> Thirty-nine written submissions were received from members of the Council, other members of ISA, observers and other stakeholders.<sup>23</sup> The Council continued its consideration of the draft regulations at the first part of the 26<sup>th</sup> session in February 2020 and agreed on a working method to move the process forward.<sup>24</sup>

Key outstanding issues include the financial model and payment mechanism for deep-sea mining, as well as the potential impact of mineral production from the Area on the economies of developing land-based producers.

<sup>13</sup> ISBA/19/C/17, annex.

<sup>14</sup> ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1, annex

<sup>15</sup> ISBA/18/A/11, annex

<sup>16</sup> ISBA/19/LTC/14

<sup>17</sup> ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1

<sup>18</sup> ISBA/21/LTC/11

<sup>19</sup> ISBA/21/LTC/15

<sup>20</sup> ISBA/25/LTC.8

<sup>21</sup> ISBA/25/C/WP.1; ISBA/25/C/18.

<sup>22</sup> ISBA/25/C/37

<sup>23</sup> In addition to the compilations of proposals and observations sent and posted on the website, the Secretariat prepared an overview of the main thematic issues raised in the written submissions (ISBA/26/C/2), as well as a collation of the specific drafting proposals sent by members of the Council (ISBA/26/C/CRP.1)

<sup>24</sup> ISBA/26/C/11

Concerning the payment mechanism, an open-ended working group of the Council, chaired by Mr. Olav Myklebust (Norway), has held three meetings to discuss the various options and associated rates of payment. The Council has decided to convene a fourth meeting of the working group in advance of the second part of the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Council and has also requested the Secretariat to prepare a report to further refine the two-stage fixed *ad valorem* royalty mechanism and the two-stage progressive *ad valorem* royalty mechanism under consideration, as well as a comparative study of seabed mining and land-based mining.

A major study on the potential economic impact of mineral production from the Area was commissioned and released in May 2020.<sup>25</sup>

During the first part of the 26<sup>th</sup> session, the LTC initiated the development of standards and guidelines,<sup>26</sup> putting the priority on those deemed necessary to be in place by the time the regulations on exploitation are adopted. Other standards and guidelines require that the Secretariat advance certain studies before work on drafting the guidelines can start.<sup>27</sup>

## National laws and regulations

Exploration and exploitation activities in the Area may be carried out by the Enterprise (see p.43) or, in association with ISA, by States parties or State enterprises or natural or juridical persons. State enterprises or natural and juridical persons must satisfy two requirements: they must be either nationals of a State party or effectively controlled by it or its nationals; and they must be “sponsored” by a State party.

Under UNCLOS, sponsoring States are required to take “all measures necessary” to ensure compliance by the sponsored contractor with UNCLOS and the terms of their contract. As recalled by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the ITLOS in its Advisory Opinion of February 2011, the sponsoring State must adopt laws, regulations and administrative measures within the framework of its legal system.

### What is a sponsoring State?

Sponsoring States have an essential role to play in the supervision of activities in the Area.

Under UNCLOS the sponsoring State must ensure that activities in the Area are carried out in conformity with international law. The sponsorship mechanism ensures that entities that are otherwise subject to domestic legal systems have to comply with the obligations set out in UNCLOS.

In 2011 the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the laws, regulations and administrative measures adopted by sponsoring States and other members of ISA with regard to activities in the Area.

As of June 2020, the following 33 States had provided information: Belgium, Brazil, China, the Cook Islands, Cuba, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Guyana, India, Japan, Kiribati, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sudan, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zambia. A submission was also received from the secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The information provided, with links to relevant national legislation can be accessed on the ISA website.

The secretariat has prepared a comparative study of existing national legislation with a view to deriving common elements.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.isa.org.jm/files/documents/impactstudy.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> ISBA/25/C/19/Add.1, Annex and Enclosures I and II

<sup>27</sup> ISBA/26/C/12.

<sup>28</sup> <https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/compstudy-nld.pdf>

## Protect the marine environment

Environmental protection is at the forefront of ISA responsibilities. UNCLOS requires ISA to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures designed to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment.<sup>29</sup>

To be approved, even exploration activities must be accompanied by an assessment of their potential impact, along with a description of a programme for oceanographic and environmental studies designed to build a baseline prior to exploitation.

The work of ISA to protect the marine environment focuses on three areas:

- Continued development of the regulatory framework, including environmental standards and guidelines.
- The review and development of regional environmental management plans (REMPs) in priority areas where there are exploration contracts.
- Review of data collected from environmental baseline studies, monitoring and assessment conducted by the contractors.

### Environmental regulations, standards and guidelines

The exploration regulations include strong and robust environmental safeguards. The LTC is responsible for keeping these regulations under review. For the exploration phase, the LTC issued in 2013 its *Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals*. These were revised by the LTC in 2019<sup>30</sup> and 2020.<sup>31</sup> The recommendations describe the procedures to be followed in the acquisition of baseline data and the monitoring to be performed during and after any activities that have the potential to cause serious harm to the environment. They also specify activities

requiring an environmental impact assessment (EIA) during exploration, including testing of mining components and other activities, and set out a detailed process for the review of the environmental impact statement by the LTC.

All the data and information submitted by contractors are compiled, organized and developed in the ISA DeepData database by the ISA Secretariat, and environmental data are made accessible to the public through the ISA website. Contractors are also obliged to monitor and report on the effects of their activities on the marine environment. The results are to be reported annually to ISA.

### Regional environmental management plans

In line with the strategy endorsed by the Council at its 25<sup>th</sup> session,<sup>32</sup> ISA made significant progress towards a standardized approach for the development of REMPs with the preparation in 2019 of a REMP guidance document and the organization of two workshops on the review and development of REMPs for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ) and the Northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR), respectively.

ISA is also in the process of developing REMPs for the Indian Ocean and the North West Pacific.

#### What are REMPs?

REMPs are a vital tool to protect the marine environment. They provide the relevant organs of ISA, as well as contractors and their sponsoring States, with proactive environmental management measures and tools, including area-based management tools, to support informed decision-making that balances resource development with the protection of the marine environment at regional scale.

<sup>29</sup> UNCLOS, art.145

<sup>30</sup> ISBA/25/LTC/6

<sup>31</sup> ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1

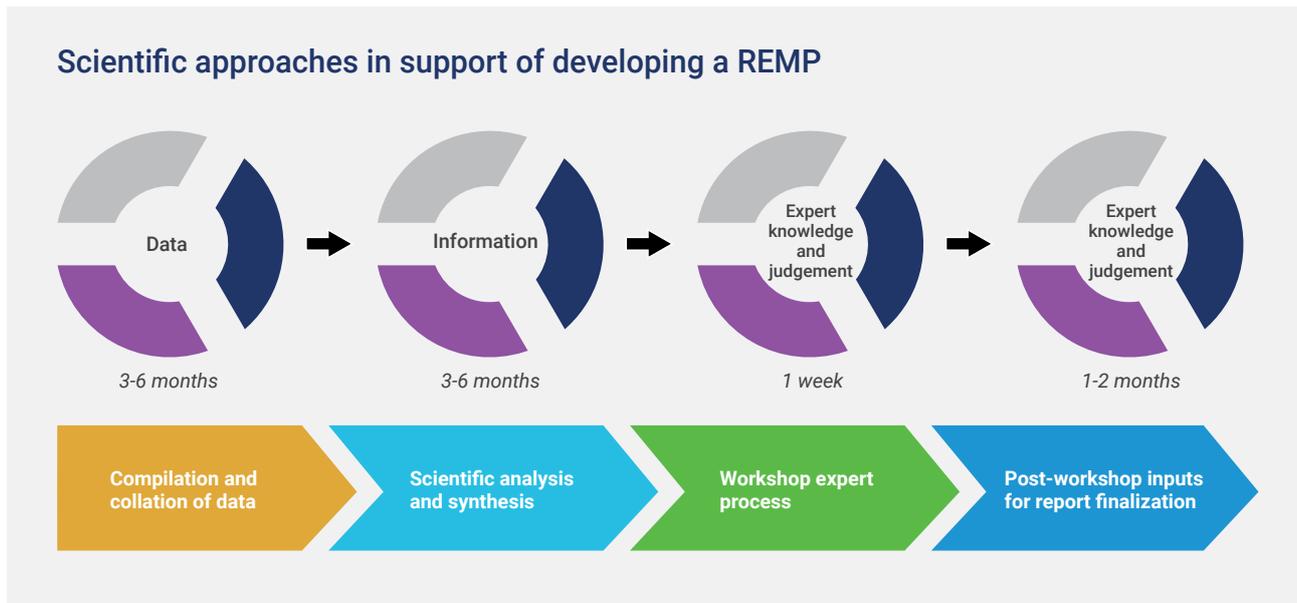
<sup>32</sup> ISBA/25/C/13.

## REMP guidance document

The REMP guidance document<sup>33</sup> was prepared by the Secretariat and presented to delegations and stakeholders at a Council side event in July 2019. As requested by the Council during part I of the 26<sup>th</sup> session, the document is

being continuously enriched by the LTC and thanks to inputs from members, workshops participants and other stakeholders.

The document outlines the process and scientific approaches for developing REMPs and was used as a basis for the organization of the two REMP workshops.



## Workshop on the CCZ biodiversity synthesis

Friday Harbor, Washington, United States – 1-4 October 2019

The workshop was organized by ISA in collaboration with the DeepCCZ Project of the University of Hawaii in order to review and incorporate in the CCZ-EMP a decade worth of new data on deep-sea biodiversity in the region.<sup>34</sup>

The workshop outcomes supported the key scientific approach underlying the design of the current network of APEIs in the CCZ and generated scientific analysis to inform the consideration by the LTC of possible additional APEIs to improve representativity and address any spatial gaps in the current APEI network (see CCZ map on p.50). The results were discussed during an informal workshop of the LTC and shared with a wide range of stakeholders in a Council side event organized in February 2020.

## The CCZ exploration area

The CCZ contains rich deposits of polymetallic nodules. Its environmental management plan (EMP) was approved in 2012 and initially created a network of nine areas of particular environmental interests (APEIs) entirely protected from mining. The APEIs were placed across the CCZ to represent the full range of biodiversity and habitats in the region. Collectively, they cover 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup>.

Participants in the Friday Harbor workshop reviewed an extensive report prepared by the DeepCCZ Project summarizing the latest scientific data and information on biodiversity in the region as well as additional datasets brought by experts. This analysis will help the LTC to decide whether to recommend additional APEIs.

<sup>33</sup> Prepared by the Secretariat and available at: [https://ran-s3.s3.amazonaws.com/isa.org/jm/s3fs-public/files/documents/rem\\_p\\_guidance\\_.pdf](https://ran-s3.s3.amazonaws.com/isa.org/jm/s3fs-public/files/documents/rem_p_guidance_.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> For background documents and the workshop report, please refer to <https://www.isa.org/jm/workshop/deep-ccz-biodiversity-synthesis-workshop>

## Workshop on the development of a REMP for the Area of the northern MAR

Évora, Portugal – 25-29 November 2019

The workshop was convened by ISA in collaboration with the Atlantic REMP Project of the European Commission and the Government of Portugal with the objective to facilitate the development of a REMP for the area of the Northern MAR.<sup>35</sup>

The workshop participants reviewed available scientific information, including an extensive data report containing more than 70 GIS overlays and a report on regional environmental assessment, and considered three complementary approaches for managing the region: adaptive management, area-based management and qualitative modelling for assessing cumulative impacts from future exploitation activities.

## The MAR exploration area

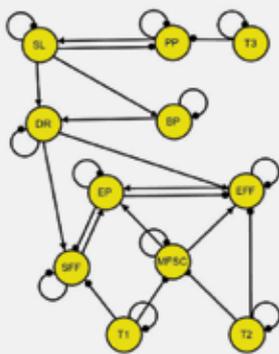
The MAR is an elevated area of seafloor that runs roughly north-south through the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. It is rich in polymetallic sulphides deposits, which can contain economic proportions of metals such as copper, zinc, lead, gold and silver.

Participants also identified and categorized key sites and areas in the MAR which would require enhanced management to achieve effective protection of the marine environment.

The workshop results will provide the scientific basis for a future workshop, to be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia, which will identify a range of environmental management measures for the REMP development.

### Three distinct but complementary approaches to REMP planning:

#### Cumulative impacts assessment

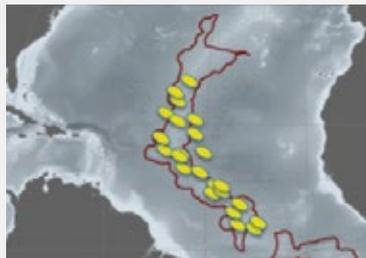


Models of pressures, impacts & risks

#### Cumulative impacts assessment

is intended to be implemented at a bioregional scale linking pressures, impacts and risks through the development of qualitative models.

#### Area-based management

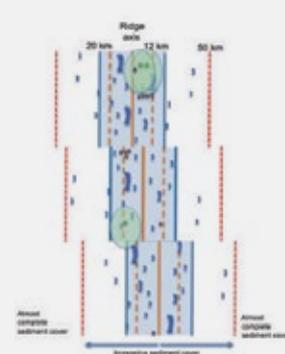


Identified areas (APEIs, sites, vulnerable marine ecosystems)

#### Area-based management

tools are intended to be implemented at a defined management scale and may rely on a variety of fine scale, coarse scale and regional scale tools to identify specific sites or broader habitat areas in need of increased precaution or protection.

#### Adaptive management



Measures and procedures

#### Adaptive management

is intended to be implemented during exploration and exploitation phases and provide measures and procedures to be implemented if sensitive habitats or features are encountered during operations.

Complementary approaches

<sup>35</sup> For background documents and the workshop report, please refer to <https://www.isa.org/jm/workshop/workshop-regional-environmental-management-plan-area-northern-mid-atlantic-ridge>

## SD4

## Promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area

One of ISA key responsibilities is to 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.<sup>36</sup> Particular emphasis is placed on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area.

### The DeepData database

Enhanced understanding of the deep-seabed environment and ecosystems is central to identifying scientifically robust and adequate measures required to protect the marine environment.



DeepData was launched by the Secretary-General of ISA in Kingston, Jamaica during the commemoration day of ISA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 25 July 2019. Photo by IISD/ENB

The research undertaken in relation to both living and non-living resources as part of exploration activities in the Area is the main source of data and knowledge currently available.

ISA systematically standardizes, collects, and centralizes in DeepData all data and information related to mineral resources and the environment of the deep seabed and the associated water column.

DeepData is a spatial, internet-based data management system. Currently, the database contains biological, physical

and geochemical parameters of the marine ecosystems from the seafloor to the ocean surface covering approximately 1 per cent of the Area (correlating to the area under exploration). Environmental data is open for public access and use, which will further enhance our collective ability to protect the marine environment in the Area.

Data contained in DeepData were made available for analysis to inform the two REMP workshops on the CCZ biodiversity synthesis and on the Northern MAR. Workshop participants provided useful feedback, including recommendations for the development of new features. The functionality of DeepData will be progressively enhanced and upgraded in future.

### United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

On 5 December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, to be held from 2021 to 2030.<sup>37</sup> IOC-UNESCO has been tasked with the preparation of the implementation plan of the Decade during the period 2018-2020 in “consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders”.<sup>38</sup>

ISA will actively participate in the Decade, whose objectives are at the core of ISA mandate to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, and especially to facilitate effective participation of developing States in deep-sea exploration and research programmes.

Since 2017, ISA has been committed to actively contribute to all stages of preparation and implementation of the Decade. Dialogue and discussions are ongoing between ISA and IOC-UNESCO, and ISA had provided comments on the draft science action plan for the Decade in November 2019.<sup>39</sup> In order to formalize and organize its contribution, ISA has also developed its own action plan in support of the Decade, which will be presented to the Assembly at its 26<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>40</sup> This action plan is built on the strategic directions, high-level actions and associated outputs adopted by ISA members under the ISA Strategic Plan and the High-Level Action Plan for 2019-2023.

<sup>36</sup> UNCLOS, art.143(2).

<sup>37</sup> A/RES/72/73.

<sup>38</sup> UNGA resolution A/RES/72/73, paragraphs 292 to 295

<sup>39</sup> ISBA/24/A/2, para.56; ISBA/25/A/2, para.95.

<sup>40</sup> ISBA/26/A/4.

## Build capacity for developing States

UNCLOS sets out specific requirements relating to capacity-building and technology transfer for developing States. ISA is required to take measures to acquire technology and scientific knowledge relating to activities in the Area<sup>41</sup> and to ensure a variety of both capacity-building and technology transfer mechanisms for developing States.<sup>42</sup>

In line with this, States are required by UNCLOS to cooperate actively through ISA and with competent international organizations 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.<sup>43</sup>

ISA is committed to ensure that all capacity-building programmes and measures implemented are meaningful, tangible, efficient, effective and targeted at the needs of developing States, as identified by them. In 2019, the Secretariat commissioned a review of all capacity-building programmes and initiatives implemented by ISA since 1994. The key findings of this report were discussed at an international workshop on "Capacity development, resources and needs assessment" that took place on 10-12 February 2020 in Kingston.

In April 2020, ISA members, and developing States in particular, were consulted to assess key national capacity-building priorities in order to inform the development of a dedicated strategy. This will ensure that all programmes and activities implemented by ISA address the needs

identified by developing states, in particular geographically disadvantaged States, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

### Contractor training programme

The contractors that have signed exploration contracts with ISA have a legal obligation<sup>44</sup> to provide and fund training opportunities for professionals from developing States and for ISA.

Between 2013 and 2019, a total of 146 training placements were provided by 23 contractors, including at-sea training, engineering training, fellowship training (including Master's and PhD programmes), internships, workshops and seminars. All training opportunities are advertised on ISA website and social media platforms and are circulated to ISA members.

As of June 2020, 31 candidates have been selected for placements in 2020 pursuant to seven exploration contracts, including 11 women.

African group: 13



Asia-Pacific group: 12



GRULAC: 5



Observer States: 1



If all existing contracts and approved plans of work are implemented according to the recommendations made by the LTC with respect to training programmes, approximately 270 additional training placements will have been made available by contractors between 2019 and 2023.

### Between 2010 and 2020, 420 individuals have benefited from ISA capacity-building programmes and initiatives

	Africa	Asia Pacific	Eastern Europe	GRULAC	WEOG	Observer States	Women	Total
Contractor training	52	48	3	1			63	146
EFMSR	55	62		26		7	58	150
Internship		12		9	10	3	24	34
Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth		25					15	25
ADSR project	65						20	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>420</b>

<sup>41</sup> UNCLOS, art.144(1)(a)

<sup>42</sup> UNCLOS, art.274.

<sup>43</sup> UNCLOS, art.273.

<sup>44</sup> Pursuant to art.15 of Annex III of UNCLOS, and Regulation 27 of the Regulations of Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic nodules (ISBA/19/C/17), Regulation 29 for Polymetallic Sulphides (ISBA/16/A/12) and Regulation 29 for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts (ISBA/18/A/11).

## What trainees say



**Safiyya Sedick, South Africa**

*“During my training I was able to learn so much by being part of a lot of activities that I would never have had the chance to be a part of if I had stayed in South Africa. There are so many organisms in the deep sea that we don’t know about and that haven’t been documented yet. I want to contribute to documenting those organisms and understand their role in the environment.”*

Safiyya participated in a contractor training programme provided by KIOST between March and April 2018. She helped collect samples for baseline surveys in the CCZ. Safiyya is now taxonomist in South Africa.

**Wycliff Tupiti, Solomon Islands**

*“The deep sea is a vast and complex environment, most of which is still largely unexplored. It is rich in minerals, which we are now aware of and that could potentially supply us with important metals for decades. To be able to undertake this research at the University of Plymouth in England has been an amazing experience for me. The University not only has the facilities and expertise to conduct and support this research but it also offers a great learning environment. For me, as a Pacific Islander, it is important to get involved in the developments surrounding minerals from the deep sea, especially in the Pacific region.”*

Wycliff joined a PhD training programme on polymetallic nodules in 2016 supported by UKSRL through a grant to the University of Plymouth. He had just submitted his thesis at the time of this report.



**Rose Kautoke, Tonga**

*“My internship at ISA was my first ever multilateral exposure. I feel that it was really crucial in helping me understand more about the topic itself, deep-sea mineral exploration and exploitation and the law of the sea, but also, how things work at the multilateral level. It has been instrumental particularly in the work I’ve been doing for my government in ocean engagements and international engagements. I’m forever grateful for the platform ISA provided for me, to help me learn in what I would say is a safe environment.”*

Rose did her internship at ISA in 2013. She is now Deputy Solicitor General and heads the Legal Advice and International Law Division of the Attorney General’s Office of Tonga.

Photo: IISD/ENB

## The Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area

The EFMSR aims to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in marine scientific research programmes and by providing the with opportunities to participate in international technical and scientific

cooperation, including through training, technical assistance and scientific cooperation programmes.

Contributions to the EFMSR may be made by ISA, its members, other States, relevant international organizations, academic, scientific and technical institutions, philanthropic organizations, corporations and private persons.

An advisory panel is appointed by the Secretary-General for periods of three years to evaluate and make recommendations on applications for assistance from the EFMSR.



### Current members of the advisory panel for the EFMSR (December 2017 – November 2020)

<b>Dr. Georgy Cherkashov</b> (reappointed)	Deputy Director, Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean, Russian Federation
<b>H.E. Tian Qi</b>	Permanent Representative to the International Seabed Authority and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica
<b>H.E. Josep María Bosch Bessa</b>	Permanent Representative to the International Seabed Authority and Ambassador of Spain to Jamaica
<b>H.E. Inés Fors Fernández</b>	Permanent Representative to the International Seabed Authority and Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Jamaica
<b>H.E. Janet Omoleegho Olisa</b>	Permanent Representative to the International Seabed Authority and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Jamaica
<b>Mr. Siosuia Utoikamanu</b>	Economic policy and public financial management specialist, Tonga
<b>Mr. Alan Evans</b>	Head, International and Strategic Partnership Office, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, United Kingdom

## Internship programme

ISA accepts interns on a limited basis, depending on the specific needs of respective offices and their capacity to effectively accommodate, support and supervise the interns.

As of June 2020, a total of 34 university graduates or government officials from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Norway, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States have participated in the internship programme.

One significant constraint in providing internships, especially to individuals from developing countries, is the absence of funding allowing ISA to support interns with such expenses as travel and subsistence.

In 2019, a donation of US\$10,000 was received from the National Oceanography Centre in the United Kingdom to assist up to two interns from developing countries. Following a call for nominations, the two selected candidates from China and the Cook Islands (both female) were awarded placements with the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources of ISA, now scheduled to begin in October 2020.

Another donation of US\$25,000 was made by France in May 2020 to support the participation of two scientists from developing States in internships programmes at Ifremer.

## Secretary-General Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research

The Secretary-General decided in 2017 to launch the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research<sup>45</sup> (#OceanAction15796). This award intends to recognize and encourage the achievements of young researchers from developing countries who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge of the deep-sea environment or to the development of environmentally sustainable regulatory frameworks.

Nominations and applications must be supported by two sponsors and should include a letter from the nominator summarizing the research and outlining the national or international significance of the work submitted, the curriculum vitae of the candidate and any publication derived from the research undertaken.

The Secretary-General selects the awardee based on the recommendations made by an advisory committee of internationally recognized experts in the field of deep-sea science, social sciences and humanities with experience in the law of the sea, international law or management of marine resources. Members of the advisory committee are appointed by the Secretary-General for a period of 3 years. In 2019 the award went to Dr. Mauricio Shimabukuro from Brazil for his extensive work on the ecology of the South Atlantic and deep-sea exploration experience (see p. 62).

### Current members of the advisory committee for the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research

**David Billet**, Director, Deep Seas Environmental Solutions Ltd

**Biliana Cicin-Sain**, Professor/Director/President, Global Ocean Forum

**Lawrence Folajimi Awosika**, Vice Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

**Annick de Marffy-Mantuano**, President of the Scientific Board of the Economic Law of the Sea Institute, Monaco

**Chunhui Tao**, Researcher/Deputy Director of China Deepsea Exploration Tech and Geoscience R&D Centre, Second Institute of Oceanography

In February 2019, the Government of Monaco announced that it would support the Award with a grant to be used to hand out a prize to the 2018 and 2019 awardees and cover the cost of attendance of the 2019 awardee at the 2019 annual session, as well as the publication fees of his research in a relevant scientific (open-access) journal.

<sup>45</sup> See ISBA/ST/SGB/2017/6, Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research, Secretary General's Bulletin, 7 August 2017.

## Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth

ISA and UN DESA registered, at the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference, a joint voluntary commitment for the implementation of SDG 14: “The Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth” (#OceanAction16538). The commitment is being enacted through the Abyssal Initiative project, carried out by ISA in partnership with UN DESA, Norway and SPC. The Abyssal Initiative builds on the success of the SPC-EU Deep Seabed Minerals project<sup>46</sup> and aims to:

- Ensure that P-SIDS sponsoring States are in a position to comply with their national and international obligations as seabed activities progress.
- Ensure that the necessary governance structures and mechanisms required are in place in order to achieve these objectives in an effective manner.

A workshop was organized by ISA and UN DESA in the Kingdom of Tonga in February 2019 involving representatives from nine Pacific island countries as well as international (ISA, UN DESA, Commonwealth Secretariat) and regional organizations (SPC, PIDF, PIFS), civil society and non-governmental organizations (PIANGO, Council of Churches), the private sector (DeepGreen, TOML) and representatives of the LTC.

Four categories of capacity-building needs were identified, leading to the organization of four workshops in 2019/2020.

Workshop	Specific capacity-building needs addressed
<b>Yaren, Nauru</b> 7-8 August 2019	Obligations and responsibilities of sponsoring States under international law
<b>Tarawa, Kiribati</b> 2-13 August 2019	Marine scientific research and access to the results of such research
<b>Cook Islands</b> Scheduled: 2020	Environmental management and monitoring of exploration activities in the Area
<b>Tonga</b> Scheduled: 2020	Benefit sharing

A toolkit will also be developed to specifically guide developing States which are sponsoring or wish to sponsor activities in the Area. The tailored publication will reflect the specific constraints faced by developing States and provide essential information and guidance on the international law obligations they have to abide by.

The Abyssal Initiative is funded through grants received from UN DESA (US\$190,438) and Norway (US\$260,000) as well as extra-budgetary in-kind contributions from SPC, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Singapore, GSR, Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd, the UK, NORI and TOML.

## The Africa Deep Seabed Resources (ADSR) project

ISA registered another joint voluntary commitment with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (since transferred to the African Union) to foster international and regional cooperation in support of the sustainable development of Africa’s Blue Economy (#OceanAction16374).

The commitment is being enacted through the ADSR project implemented by ISA in partnership with the African Union and NORAD. All activities are undertaken in close cooperation with States parties to UNCLOS, relevant international and regional organizations, the scientific community and academia.

The project aims to organize a series of workshops across the continent to facilitate discussion between government representatives and experts to identify capacity-building priorities. Two workshops have taken place so far while four more are scheduled for 2020-2021 (Mauritius, Morocco, Ethiopia and Senegal).

- Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire - October 2018.  
The workshop brought together representatives from 17 francophone African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and

<sup>46</sup> Implemented by SPC in collaboration with the EU between 2011 and 2016, the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project was designed to help Pacific island countries improve the governance and management of their deep-sea mineral resources through improved legal frameworks and increased technical capacity. One of the key dimensions of the project consisted in assisting the 15 participating countries in building their capacities in marine minerals, policy development, fiscal and taxation regimes and environmental monitoring. More information is available at <https://dsm.gsd.spc.int/>

Togo) as well as international and regional organizations, the scientific community and academia.

- Pretoria, South Africa - May 2019.  
The workshop was organized in partnership with the Government of South Africa and the African Union. It brought together 40 government representatives from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia; representatives of ISA; members of the LTC; representatives of the African Union and DOALOS; the Kingdom of Norway and experts from Africa. Former ISA trainee Safiyya Seddick was also invited to share the benefits gained from her experience.

The ADSR project is funded thanks to grants received from NORAD (US\$500,000) and the African Development Bank (US\$25,000) as well as in-kind contributions received from the UK, GSR and South Africa.

Under the project ten national experts from African States, including five women, will also be deployed within the ISA Secretariat in the course of 2020. Such secondments aim, on the one hand, to take advantage of existing capacity-building initiatives to provide national experts with technical skills on deep-seabed related matters and, on the other hand, to enable the ISA Secretariat to benefit from the contribution of such experts towards advancing specific tasks identified in partnership with the LTC. The following experts have been selected for placement in 2020 among over 50 applicants.

### The first two experts hosted by the Secretariat were Ms. Tini Guitoba and Ms. Judith Owusu.



**Tini Guitoba**  
Legal Assistant,  
Directorate of  
Maritime Affairs, Togo

*"Having the opportunity to participate in the deployment of national experts within 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, namely the ISA Council and the Legal and Technical Commission. I will apply the knowledge gained during my deployment in my current role and assist my government."*



**Judith Owusu**  
Geochemist,  
Ghana National Petroleum  
Corporation

*"In 2017, I participated in the ISA contractor training programme and joined a research vessel with JOGMEC. This was a unique experience through which I learned a lot. However, I was interested in learning more, particularly in relation to the governance mechanisms to regulate and manage seabed mining in the Area. This motivated me to apply for the deployment to ISA Secretariat through the ADSR project. Upon my return to Ghana, I will be able to share the knowledge gained with ISA experts. My company has decided to establish a specific unit where we will continue to develop our expertise and capacities."*

Name	Field of expertise	Country of nationality	Period of deployment at ISA
Ms. Judith A. Owusu	Geology	Ghana	19 January-21 March 2020
Ms. Tini Guitoba	Ocean Policy	Togo	19 January-21 March 2020
Ms. Lucy Njue	Geology	Kenya	16 March-15 May 2020*
Mr. Michel Sjimougou Djomeni	Ocean Policy	Cameroon	16 March-15 May 2020*
Mr. Beenesh Anand Motah	Ocean Policy	Mauritius	16 March-15 May 2020*
Mr. Gerald Mwila	Geology	Zambia	16 March-15 May 2020*
Mr. Samuel Popoola	Geology	Nigeria	4 August-2 October 2020*
Mr. Abner Nghoongoloka	Geology	Namibia	4 August-2 October 2020*
Ms. Coumba Gaye	Ocean Policy	Senegal	7 September-6 November 2020*
Mr. Godwin Dimike	Ocean Policy	Nigeria	7 September-6 November 2020*

\* Postponed due to COVID-19

## Ensure fully integrated participation by developing States

ISA has the duty to promote the participation of developing States in activities in the Area. It has been putting the emphasis on identifying and promoting opportunities for personnel from developing States to be trained in marine science and technology. The signing on 18 October 2019 of a memorandum of understanding between ISA and China for the establishment of the Joint Training and Research Center (JTRC) in Qingdao, China was a major milestone.

### ISA-China Joint Training and Research Center (JTRC)

The JTRC will support the fulfillment of ISA responsibilities and obligations relating to capacity building, marine scientific research, and international cooperation for the development of marine technology. Under the memorandum, ISA and China will work together to promote knowledge of the deep ocean and its environment, and enable developing countries to benefit from the mineral resources of the international seabed area.

The JTRC will provide training programmes in marine science and technology, as well as in techniques for marine scientific research. It will also support the conduct of collaborative research programmes, along with the organization of conferences and workshops, and the dissemination of the results of marine scientific research.

*“This centre will provide a new platform for ISA to promote capacity building and the transfer of marine technology for developing countries, and to advance and share human knowledge of the deep ocean and its environment.”*

**ISA Secretary-General**



The Secretary-General signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 18 October 2019 with Mr. Wang Hong, Administrator of State Oceanic Administration of China to establish the JTRC.

#### Members of the JTRC steering committee:

**Ms. Gu Wu**, Director of the JTRC, Director of the National Deep Sea Center of China

**Mr. Liu Feng**, Secretary General of COMRA, Director-General of China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration

**Ms. Jihyun Lee**, Director, Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources, ISA

**Dr. Georgy Cherkashov**, LTC Member, ISA

**Dr. Gordon Paterson**, LTC Member, ISA

**Mr. Wang Qian**, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources of China

**Mr. Xiang Youquan**, Deputy Director-General of China Oceanic Development Foundation

## The Enterprise

The Enterprise is the organ of ISA conceived by UNCLOS to carry out activities in the Area, as well as the transporting, processing and marketing of minerals recovered from it.

The Enterprise is not yet operational and its functions are being carried by the Secretariat. Its operationalization will follow an “evolutionary approach”, with initial operations to be conducted through joint ventures following sound commercial principles. In preparation for the day when the Enterprise begins to operate independently, the Secretariat, under the 1994 Agreement, is responsible for assessing the potential resources of the reserved areas as well as possible approaches to joint venture operations. Once operational, the Enterprise will also play a crucial role of facilitating the participation of developing States in deep-seabed mining in the Area, as it will be able to carry out such activities in the reserved areas in association with them.

In 2018, taking into account the discussions relating to the Enterprise in the Council, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Eden Charles (Trinidad and Tobago) as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise. A voluntary trust fund has been established to support his work.

In 2019, the Secretariat commissioned an external study on the legal, technical and financial implications of the Enterprise for ISA and for States parties.<sup>47</sup> The resulting report, which is available on the ISA website, was considered “by the LTC in February 2020 and a number of recommendations were made for consideration by the Council.

### Reserved areas and the Enterprise: How does it work?

The mechanism of so-called “reserved areas” is one of the ways UNCLOS ensures that developing countries can access deep-sea mineral resources. Reserved areas are contributed when States apply to ISA for exploration rights. They are then held in a “site bank” which is reserved for access by developing countries or for the future Enterprise.

In total, 1,318,633 km<sup>2</sup> have been contributed to the reserved area site bank for polymetallic nodules. As of June 2020, 891,138 km<sup>2</sup> remain available, in addition to a reserved area of 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of cobalt-rich crust. Since 2011, a total of 427,495 km<sup>2</sup> of reserved areas containing polymetallic nodules have been allocated to qualifying entities from developing States.

In 2010, the Secretariat produced a peer reviewed geological model of polymetallic nodule deposits in the CCZ.\* In 2019, the Secretariat used the data and information available in DeepData to update that assessment. It is now estimated that 5,400 million tons of metal lies on the seafloor in the reserved areas.

\* ISA Technical Study No. 6.  
<https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/tstudy6.pdf>



<sup>47</sup> The Council had originally requested a study on the operationalization of the Enterprise in 2013 (ISBA/19/C/18). Draft terms of reference for the study were developed by the LTC in 2014 and finally approved in 2018 (ISBA/24/C/9)

## Ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits

ISA must adopt rules, regulations and procedures for the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area. Similar rules, regulations and procedures must also be adopted for the distribution of payments to be made through ISA<sup>48</sup> in relation to the exploitation of non-living resources on the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.<sup>49</sup> Decisions on these matters by the Assembly and Council must consider the recommendations produced by the FC.

In 2018 the Secretary-General issued a report on the development of rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits from activities in the Area.<sup>50</sup> The report reviewed the applicable legal provisions contained in UNCLOS as well as previous work of ISA and available literature related to the development of equitable sharing criteria. The FC later requested the Secretariat to prepare a study of the conceptual basis for equitable sharing that would set out alternative approaches to benefit-sharing formulae based on principles of equity and economic theory. The study was provided to the FC in 2019 and a supplementary report was produced in 2020 based on feedback from the FC.



Photo: DeepGreen

### Beyond financial benefits

Although the work of the FC has focused primarily on the distribution of future financial benefits from activities in the Area, UNCLOS gives equal weight to non-monetary benefit sharing as a means of giving effect to the overall objective of benefitting to humankind. There is no limit to the category of non-monetary benefits, and it is not possible to quantify all these benefits as they may change over time. The mere fact that UNCLOS establishes a legal regime for the Area that limits access to resources and prevents unrestrained exploitation is itself a benefit to humankind since the purpose of the regime is to create and enforce a set of rules and standards governing deep-sea mining and related activities that balances the need for resource extraction with the preservation of the marine environment. Among the non-monetary benefits that may be identified are:

- The development of the resources of the Area.
- The orderly, safe and rational management of the resources of the Area.
- The expansion of opportunities for participation in such activities consistent in particular with articles 144 and 148 of UNCLOS.
- Increased availability of the minerals derived from the Area as needed in conjunction with minerals derived from other sources, to ensure supplies to consumers of such minerals.
- 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 and the prevention of monopolization of activities in the Area.
- Protection of the marine environment through the rules, regulations and procedures of ISA.
- Capacity-building, mandatory in the case of the training programmes required of contractors, and developed through international cooperation in the case of programmes developed through ISA.
- Increased knowledge of the marine environment and deep seabed.
- Increased availability of marine technology.

<sup>48</sup> UNCLOS, art.140(2).

<sup>49</sup> UNCLOS, art.82(1).

<sup>50</sup> ISBA/24/FC/4

SD8

## Improve the organizational performance of ISA

In accordance with the 1994 Agreement, the setting up and the functioning of the organs and subsidiary bodies of ISA shall be based on an evolutionary approach. Such organs and subsidiary bodies may therefore discharge effectively their respective responsibilities at various stages of the development of activities in the Area. It is also emphasized in the 1994 Agreement that in order to minimize costs to States parties, all organs and subsidiary bodies to be established under UNCLOS shall be cost-effective.<sup>51</sup>

### Strategic planning

The adoption by the Assembly in July 2019 of the High-Level Action Plan for ISA for 2019-2023<sup>52</sup> was a significant step to enable ISA to achieve the objectives and priorities identified in the Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2023. The Assembly also adopted a set of indicators to assess the performance of ISA towards implementing the strategic directions set out in the Strategic Plan.

### Improved resources management

Since 2017, ISA has been using International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which has permitted the timely and accurate recognition of employee benefits, assets (both tangible and intangible), liabilities and financial disclosures.

The review of the methodology, as requested by the FC in 2018, to report the exact costs for the supervision and administration of exploration contracts<sup>53</sup> has permitted to adjust the overhead charge for services provided to contractors by ISA and meet cost recovery requirements.

In 2020, the secretariat introduced an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. The ERP is a moderate version of SAP®, intended for organizations with a similar profile as ISA, and covers the main areas in budget, finance, procurement and a number of processes in human resources.

### Inspira

ISA started using the United Nations talent management system “Inspira” in April 2019 in order to reach a greater pool of candidates, expand the online learning resources for staff and non-staff and support the performance management and appraisal system. Twenty-nine other UN entities use the Inspira portal, which has 3 million registered users.<sup>54</sup>

### Staff regulations and rules

ISA conducted an in-depth and comprehensive review of its HR policies and most recently, in January 2020, promulgated a fourth edition of the Staff Rules of ISA.<sup>55</sup> The promulgation of staff rules follows the amendments to the staff regulations which were made necessary to implement the revisions to the compensation package for internationally recruited staff as recommended by the International Civil Service Commission and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.<sup>56</sup> The Assembly approved these revisions in its 23rd<sup>57</sup> and 25th<sup>58</sup> sessions.

### Participation in United Nations system of organizations

ISA has steadily increased its presence within the United Nations common system of organizations.<sup>59</sup> This is evidenced notably by its ongoing participation in the work of the International Civil Service Commission, the signing of service level agreements with the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations Volunteers and OneHR, and the increase from 2 per cent in 2017 to 18 per cent today of ISA staff resulting from inter-agency movements (transfer, secondment, re-employment).

<sup>51</sup> 1994 Agreement, Annex, section.1(2).

<sup>52</sup> ISBA/25/A/15/Corr.1.

<sup>53</sup> ISBA/24/A/6-ISBA/24/C/19.

<sup>54</sup> <http://careers.un.org/>

<sup>55</sup> ISBA/ST/SGB/2020/1

<sup>56</sup> A/RES/70/244

<sup>57</sup> ISBA/23/A/11

<sup>58</sup> ISBA/25/A/13

<sup>59</sup> [https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/un\\_system\\_chart.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/un_system_chart.pdf)

## Commit to transparency

Transparency is an essential element of good governance and is therefore a guiding principle for ISA in the conduct of its business as a publicly accountable international organization. This includes transparency in the internal administration of ISA as well as its internal procedures, the procedures of its various organs and subsidiary bodies and its procedures towards States. Transparency plays a fundamental role in building trust in ISA and enhancing ISA accountability, credibility and support across its stakeholder base. During the reporting period, efforts have been made to increase the visibility of ISA mandate and programmes, while improving clarity and strengthening credibility around its work.

### Informational workshop for ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries

In September 2019, ISA held its 20<sup>th</sup> informational workshop in partnership with the Government of Myanmar and the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), in Nya Pyi Taw for the benefit of ASEAN and BIMSTEC member States.

The event sought to increase knowledge amongst ASEAN and BIMSTEC members of the mandate and responsibilities of ISA and their understanding of the potential opportunities arising from participating in activities in the Area.



## Public information and online presence

Since July 2019, 16 new publications (4 technical studies, 4 workshop reports and 8 other general publications) have been made available on ISA website.

A new, upgraded version of the website was launched in June 2020. Input received from members, observers, LTC members, development partners, former trainees, researchers and students helped develop a website that is more dynamic, more user-friendly and easier to navigate. The website provides a portal to access up-to-date information on ISA programmes and activities, including the ongoing work on the development of the deep-sea Mining Code, as well as access to the DeepData database, the Satya N. Nandan Library catalog and multi-media resources. ISA has also increased its presence on social media, with Soundcloud and Flickr accounts set up in 2020.



**5 700**  
Views

**+70%**  
in the last year



**2 115**  
Followers

**+40%**  
in the last year



**2 204**  
Likes

**+20%**  
in the last year

## Stakeholder engagement

ISA pays particular attention to ensuring the active participation of all stakeholders in its work. This is reflected in the ongoing consultations organized for the development of the draft exploitation regulations and other key strategic documents and initiatives.

Significant progress has also been made by the Secretariat on the development of a communications and stakeholder engagement strategy, for which a draft is expected to be available for public consultation in September 2020 with a view to finalizing it by the end of the year.

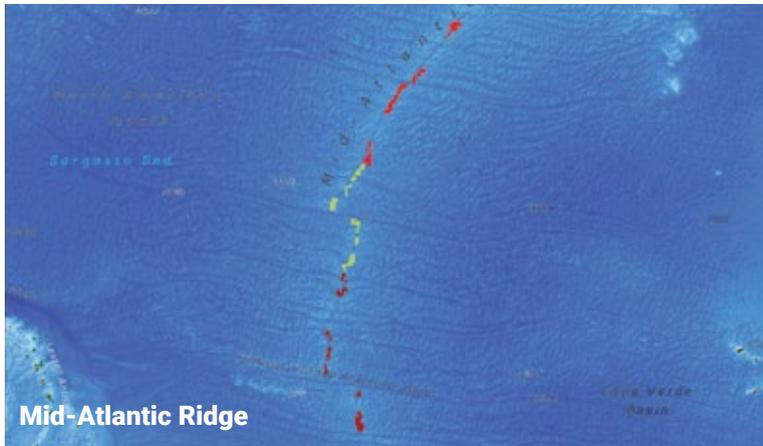




# 4 STATUS OF CONTRACTS FOR EXPLORATION IN THE AREA



# Who is exploring where, for what?



**Mid-Atlantic Ridge**

**Mid-Atlantic Ridge Exploration Areas for Polymetallic Sulphides**

- Government of the Republic of Poland
- Government of the Russian Federation
- Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer, France)



**Clarion-Clipperton Zone**

**Mid-Atlantic Ridge**

**South Atlantic Ocean**



**Clarion-Clipperton Zone**

**Clarion-Clipperton Zone Exploration Areas for Polymetallic Nodules**

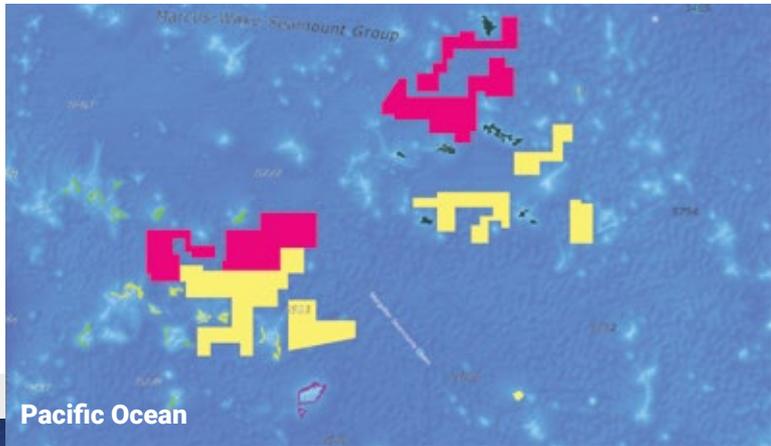
- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Germany)
- Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC, Cook Islands)
- China Minmetals Corporation (CMC, China)
- China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA, China)
- Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. (DORD, Japan)
- Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR, Belgium)
- Government of the Republic of Korea
- Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer, France)
- Interoceanmetal (IOM, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Fed., Slovakia)
- Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd (Kiribati)
- Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (NOR, Nauru)
- Ocean Mineral Singapore PTE Ltd. (OMS, Singapore)
- Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (TOML, Tonga)
- UK Seabed Resources Ltd. (UKSRL, UK-I, UK-II)
- Yuzhmorgeologiya (Russian Federation)
- Reserved Areas
- Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEI)



**South Atlantic Ocean**

**South Atlantic Seamounts Exploration Areas for**

- Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais (CPRM, Brazil)



**Pacific Ocean**

**Pacific Ocean Exploration Areas for Polymetallic Nodules (PMN) & Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts (CFC)**

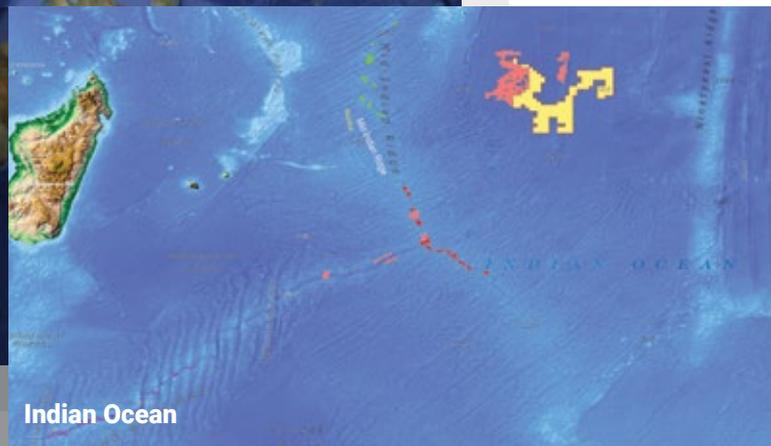
- China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA; China; CFC)
- Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC; Japan; CFC)
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (CFC)
- Government of the Republic of Korea (CFC)
- Beijing Pioneer H-Tech Development Corporation (BPHDC; China; PMN)
- Reserved Areas



**Indian Ocean**



**Pacific Ocean**



**Indian Ocean**

**Indian Ocean Exploration Areas for Polymetallic Nodules and Polymetallic Sulphides**

- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR; Germany; Sulphides)
- China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA; China; Sulphides)
- Government of the Republic of Korea (Sulphides)
- Government of the Republic of India (Sulphides & Nodules)
- Reserved Areas



**for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts**

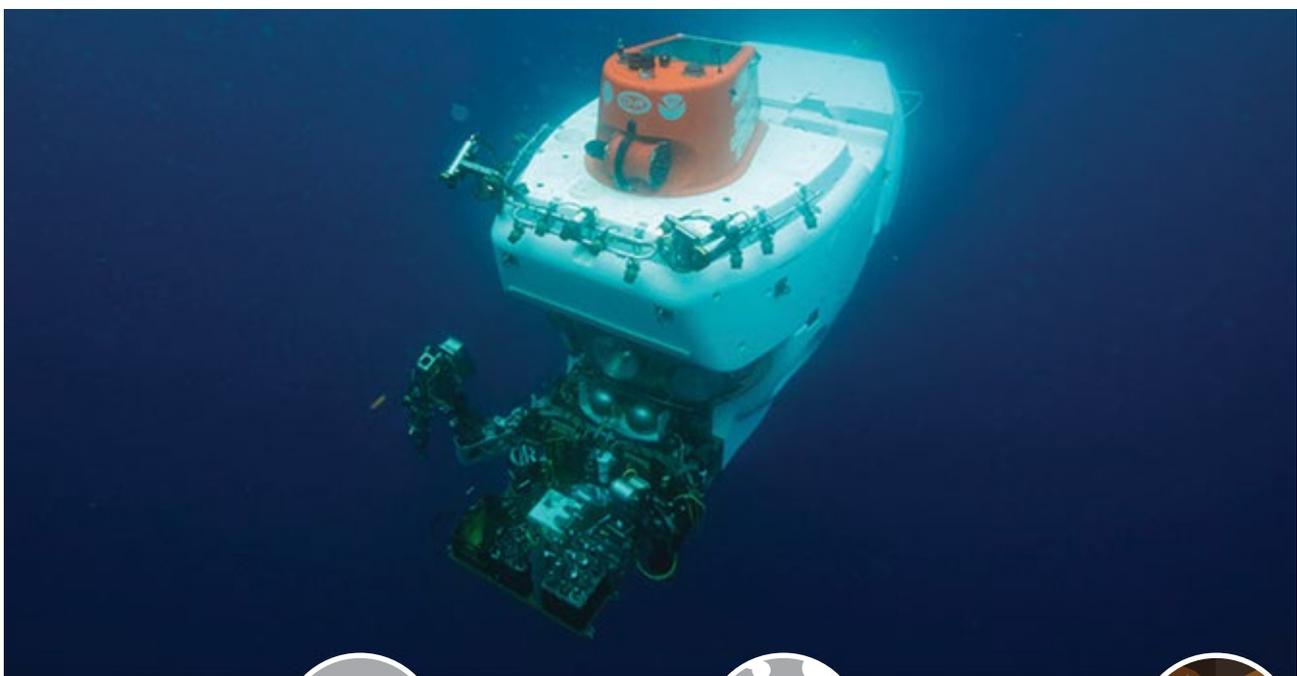
As of June 2020, 30 contracts for exploration of the Area have entered into force. Contracts are granted for a period of 15 years.

The areas being explored are in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, the Indian Ocean, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the South Atlantic Ocean and the Western Pacific Ocean. Exploration activities consist primarily of environmental surveys and sampling, geological studies and mineral resources assessment and have extremely low or no environmental impact.

The 30 exploration projects currently being undertaken involve 22 different sponsoring States, including 12 developing States and five SIDS (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Singapore and Tonga). The most recent contract was issued to Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation (sponsored by the Government of China) to explore for polymetallic nodules in the Western Pacific Ocean.<sup>60</sup>

**30 contracts  
for exploration**

**1.4 million km<sup>2</sup>  
being explored**



**18**

**contracts for polymetallic nodules**

Source of nickel, cobalt, copper and manganese



Clarion-Clipperton Zone (16)  
Indian Ocean (1) and Pacific ocean (1)



**7**

**contracts for polymetallic sulphides**

Source of copper, lead, zinc, gold and silver



Mid-Atlantic Ridge  
and Indian Ocean



**5**

**contracts for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts**

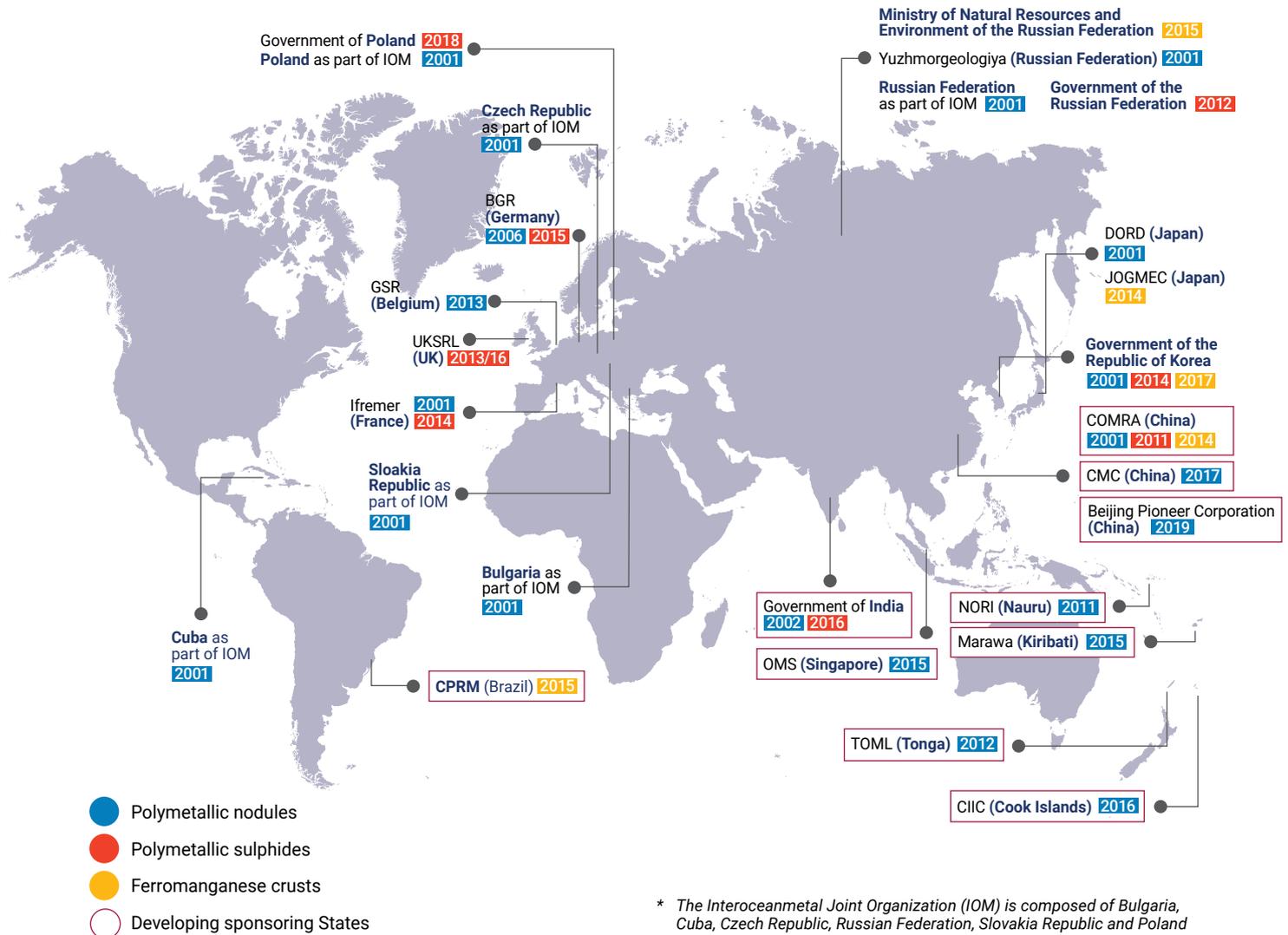
Source of cobalt, vanadium, molybdenum, platinum and tellurium



South Atlantic  
and Pacific Ocean

<sup>60</sup> ISBA/25/C/33.

## Who are the contractors and sponsoring States?



## Monitoring of exploration activities

Annual reporting by each contractor facilitates the monitoring of progress of the exploration work carried out against the contractor's approved plan of work. The annual report also provides ISA with data and information which may be used, for example, to evaluate, analyse and assess the environmental effects of exploration activities, and to help ISA with the formulation of relevant rules, regulations and procedures concerning safety and the protection of the marine environment. Annual reports are reviewed and evaluated by the LTC, which can provide feedback to each contractor on its performance through the Secretary-General.

The regulations also require the contractor and the Secretary-General to jointly undertake a periodic review of the implementation of the plan of work for exploration at intervals of five years.

To further improve the review process, the LTC presented during the first part of the 26<sup>th</sup> session a guidance document on the contents and format of periodic reports to ensure that all contractors report in a standardized manner and to reduce the time spent both by the contractors while preparing the reports and by the Secretariat while reviewing them.

## Third annual meeting of contractors

11-13 October 2019 - Changsha, China



Contractors meet in Changsha, China on the occasion of the third contractors meeting convened by the Secretary-General.

Since 2017, the Secretary-General has held annual meetings with contractors to discuss issues of common interest and share best practice in deep-sea exploration. The 2017 meeting was held in Jamaica and the 2018 meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

The 2019 meeting in Changsha, China, addressed several important topics such as promoting increased transparency of contracts, the status of development of the regulatory framework for the exploitation of mineral resources, the environmental compensation fund and the submission of digital data including bathymetric data.

In a special session of the meeting, the International Cable Protection Committee was invited to make a presentation and discuss what it considered matters of mutual interest with the contractors, as well as matters of future collaboration.

The meeting also discussed the types of deep-sea data the contractors can contribute to ISA DeepData database in order to ensure effective environmental protection and enhance transparency, along with issues related to annual reports and periodic reviews.

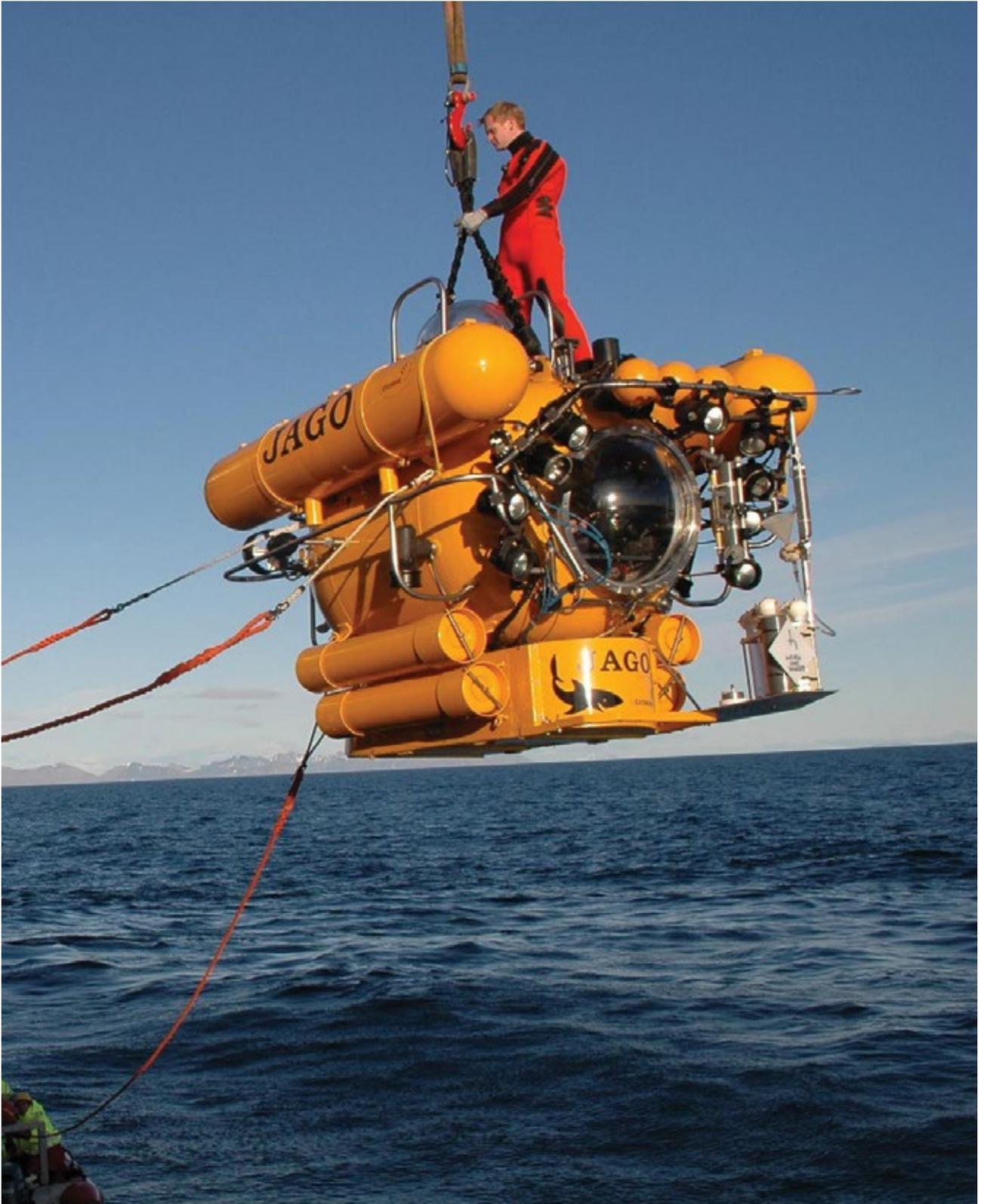


Photo: GEOMAR

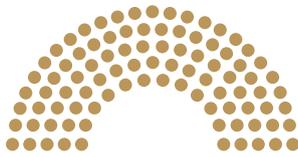


# 5

## GOVERNING BODIES



# Structure and functions



## Assembly

### 167 member States + the European Union

- Supreme/political organ
- Power to establish general policies on any question or matter within the ISA competence
- Approves budget
- Approves regulations recommended by the Council

## Finance Committee

- 15 members including 5 largest contributors (as long as ISA depends on assessed contributions)
- All financial and budgetary matters must be considered by the Finance Committee

## Council

**Group A (4) Major consumers:**  
China, Italy, Japan, Russia

**Group B (4) Major investors:**  
France, Germany, India, Republic of Korea

**Group C (4) Major exporters:**  
Australia, Canada, Indonesia, South Africa

**Group D (6) Developing States and special interests:** Bangladesh, Brazil, Lesotho, Fiji, Jamaica, Uganda

**Group E (19) Equitable geographic representation:** Algeria, Argentina, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ghana, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom



## Enterprise



- Organ of ISA mandated to carry out activities in the Area directly
- Not currently operational. Interim functions carried out by the Secretariat



## Secretariat

Secretary-General + administrative and technical staff



## Legal and Technical Commission

- 30 expert members
- Recommends approval of plans of work
- Proposes technical + environmental regulations to Council



## Economic Planning Commission

- Not currently operational. Functions carried out by the LTC

## Sessions of the governing bodies in 2019-2020

### 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Council (Part II) 15-19 July 2019

During the second part of its 25<sup>th</sup> session, the Council continued its consideration of the draft exploitation regulations submitted by the LTC<sup>61</sup> and agreed on the next steps for their development.

The Council considered the report of the Chair of the open-ended informal working group on the development of a financial and payment mechanism, on the outcome of the second meeting of the group, which was held on 11 and 12 July 2019. The Council decided that the group should convene a third meeting in 2020.

The Council also decided to extend the contract and renew the terms of reference of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise while working towards the operationalization of the Enterprise.<sup>62</sup>

The Council considered two proposals relating to the future elections of members of the LTC and decided to defer the consideration of the submissions to its next meeting in 2020, when they would be taken up as a matter of priority.

Finally, acting on the recommendations of the LTC, the Council approved an application for a plan of work for exploration in the Area submitted by Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation, sponsored by the Government of China.<sup>63</sup>

### 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly, 22-26 July 2019



Photo: IISD/ENB

The Assembly elected the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson-Smith as its president. During its session, the Assembly considered the annual report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with article 166(4) of UNCLOS<sup>64</sup> and adopted the High-Level Action Plan and the corresponding key performance indicators for the implementation of ISA Strategic Plan for 2019-2023.<sup>65</sup>

The Assembly adopted the terms of reference for the trust fund for extrabudgetary support<sup>66</sup> as recommended by the FC as well as the terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise.<sup>67</sup>

The Assembly also approved the guidelines for applications by non-governmental organizations for observer status with ISA.<sup>68</sup>

Finally, the Assembly endorsed the text of the memorandum of understanding to establish the JTRC with the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and authorized the Secretary-General to sign it.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>61</sup> ISBA/25/C/WP.1.

<sup>62</sup> ISBA/25/C/36.

<sup>63</sup> ISBA/25/C/33.

<sup>64</sup> ISBA/25/A/2.

<sup>65</sup> ISBA/25/A/15; ISBA/25/A/15/Corr.1.

<sup>66</sup> ISBA/25/A/14, Annex I.

<sup>67</sup> ISBA/25/A/14, Annex I.

<sup>68</sup> ISBA/25/A/16.

<sup>69</sup> ISBA/25/A/17, para.28.

## 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Council (Part II) 17-21 February 2020



Dr. Kathy-Ann Brown (Jamaica) presided over the session.

Photo: IISD/ENB

The Council continued to consider the draft exploitation regulations and decided to establish three informal working groups responsible for:

- Issues related to the preservation and protection of the marine environment.
- Inspection, compliance, and enforcement.
- Institutional matters.

Each group will be facilitated by individuals designated by the regional groups in accordance with the mandates and modalities agreed by the Council.

Delegates also addressed the composition and the size of the LTC, an issue that has been on the agenda since the last election of LTC members in 2016. The Council adopted a decision charting a path forward to enable a final decision to be taken at its next meeting in October 2020 and appointed Mr. Vladislav Kurbatskiy (Russian Federation) as a facilitator for that purpose.



Photo: IISD/ENB

## 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

2019 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ISA and the entry into force of UNCLOS. To celebrate this momentous occasion, ISA held a special commemorative session of the Assembly and organized an international conference, both held in Kingston, Jamaica in July and November, respectively.



### Special commemorative session during the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly

25 July 2019 – Kingston, Jamaica

On 25 July 2019, ISA held an all-day commemorative session. Key events included the second edition of the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research, a high-level panel on capacity-building, a special commemorative session of the Assembly and the launch of the DeepData platform.



A commemorative meeting was held on 25 July 2019 during the 25<sup>th</sup> session  
Photo: IISD/ENB



Secretary-General Michael W. Lodge and Head of the Monaco Delegation Mr. Tidiani Couma present 2019 awardee Mauricio Shimabukuro with a polymetallic nodule embedded in glass

The Secretary-General, Michael W. Lodge, and the Head of the Monaco Delegation, Mr. Tidiani Couma, introduced the second edition of the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research. Mr. Lodge acknowledged the contribution of the Principality of Monaco to financially support the award and announced the winner of the 2019 edition, Maurício Shimabukuro from the Institute of Oceanography at the University of São Paulo, Brazil for his extensive work on the ecology of the South Atlantic and deep-sea exploration experience.



Jihyun Lee, ISA Secretariat, introduces DeepData  
Photo: IISD/ENB

ISA also presented its DeepData database, which centralizes all data and information relating to mineral resources and environment of the international deep seabed and the associated water column, systematically collected by ISA from data and information submitted by contractors over the years.

A high-level panel on “Strengthening capacity-building opportunities and initiatives for developing States” underlined the importance of capacity-building to achieve ISA mandate. The panel was co-chaired by the Secretary-General of ISA and H.E. Honourable Baron Waqa, President of Nauru and was comprised of:

- **Mr. Jens Frolich Holte**, State Secretary, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- **H.E. Carlos Den Hartog**, Permanent Representative of Brazil to ISA
- **H. E. Satyendra Prasad**, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations
- **Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe**, Minister, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

The Secretary-General highlighted on this occasion the contractor training programme as well as the Abyssal Initiative and ADSR projects, both designed to address the capacity-building needs of developing States.



H.E. Honourable Baron Waqa, President of Nauru, co-chairs the high level panel  
Photo: IISD/ENB

The day concluded with the official commemoration of ISA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, opened by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, who emphasized ISA achievements since its establishment and the central role it is mandated to play in relation to the governance of the Area. In all their statements, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Mr. Miguel de

Serpa Soares; Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General for the United Nations Oceans Conference, Mr. Liu Zhenmin and the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Mr. Jin-Hyun Paik, echoed congratulations to ISA on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and pledged their commitment to supporting the work of the organization in the years ahead.



Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica  
Photo: IISD/ENB



Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, United Nations  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs  
Photo: IISD/ENB



Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for  
Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General  
for the United Nations Oceans Conference  
Photo: IISD/ENB



Mr. Jin-Hyun Paik, President of the International Tribunal  
for the Law of the Sea  
Photo: IISD/ENB

## International Conference on the Legal, Scientific and Economic Aspects of Deep Seabed Mining

14-16 November - Kingston, Jamaica

The conference brought together over 100 participants, including high-level government officials, international experts, researchers and scholars from the legal and scientific community, along with representatives of the diplomatic corps, to celebrate this milestone and to discuss the many achievements realized within 25 years as well as the future of deep-sea mining.



ISA organized the conference together with COLP and thanks to the generous support of CIL, ICAS, KMI and WMU.

At the opening session, Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica underlined that the immediate priority of ISA “must remain the development of regulations to govern the exploitation in the international deep seabed area”.

“As ISA looks ahead to the next 25 years, we must carefully and urgently prepare to mine the resources of the Area,” said the Minister. “The exploitation phase promises socio-economic benefits for all peoples and it is important that our contributions place us on the right side of history for the care and diligence we take now in this process.”



In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General highlighted the evolution of ISA, noting the significance of this day 25 years ago, when the inaugural session of ISA was held in Kingston in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

“The world now is very different to what it was in 1982, when the Convention was adopted, and even compared to 1994, when ISA was established,” said Mr. Lodge.

“The priorities and concerns of States have changed, and we need to recognize that ISA needs to change as well. Going forward, it is vitally important that the work of ISA is made consistent with the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and that ISA makes its contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Professor Myron H. Nordquist, Associate Director and Editor of COLP, further noted the significant role ISA has played in the implementation of international law and in upholding the principles of the common heritage of humankind.

“The practical implementation of the common heritage concept by ISA for over 25 years has credibly dispelled original skepticism about the viability of exploration of seabed minerals in areas beyond national jurisdiction,” he added.



In his keynote address, Judge Patrick Robinson of the International Court of Justice, highlighted: “While it is known that in some quarters there is a view that there should be a moratorium on deep-seabed mining or even, that it should be banned on the ground that it is incompatible with the protection of the marine environment, it is not as though the Montego Bay Convention did not anticipate that activities in the Area would have some effect on the marine environment. After all, the Convention requires the Authority to take measures to protect the marine environment from the harmful effects of activities that may arise in the Area.”

Judge Albert J. Hoffmann, President of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of ITLOS, also participated in the conference and delivered a presentation on the work and future role of the Chamber.





# 6

## ADMINISTRATION – THE SECRETARIAT



The Secretariat of ISA is located in Kingston, Jamaica. It is headed by the Secretary-General, Michael W. Lodge, who is the chief administrative officer, and consists of 44 regular posts and two temporary support positions. The main functions of the Secretariat include providing support to the Secretary-General; producing reports and other documents that facilitate the deliberations and decision-making by the other principal organs; producing publications, information bulletins and analytical studies and disseminating information on the activities and decisions of ISA; organizing and servicing expert group meetings, seminars and workshops; implementing the work programmes and policies laid down by the other principal organs; ensuring compliance with plans of work for exploration and exploitation; and performing the functions of the Enterprise until it begins to operate independently.



Michael W. Lodge and guests during ISA open day to commemorate World Oceans Day - Kingston, Jamaica - 7 June 2019

Michael W. Lodge of the United Kingdom was elected Secretary-General of ISA in 2016 and began his four-year term of office on 1 January 2017. He was Deputy to the Secretary-General prior to his election.

He has also held appointments as a Visiting Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford (2012-2013); an Associate Fellow of Chatham House, London (2007) and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Oceans (2011-2016).

Mr. Lodge received his LLB from the University of East Anglia, and has an MSc in marine policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is a barrister of Gray's Inn, London. Other professional experiences include serving as Legal Counsel to ISA (1996-2003); Counsellor to the Round Table on Sustainable Development, OECD (2004-2007) and Legal Counsel to the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (1991-1995).

Mr. Lodge has published and lectured extensively on the international law of the sea, with over 25 published books and articles on law of the sea, oceans policy and related issues.

The Secretary-General is also the Permanent Observer of the ISA to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the ISA maintains a Permanent Observer Mission in New York.

Follow Michael W. Lodge  
on Twitter @mw lodge and ISA @ISBAHQ

## Executive Office of The Secretary-General

**Michael W. Lodge**  
Secretary-General

**Marie Bourrel-McKinnon**  
Senior Policy Officer and Special  
Assistant to the Secretary-General

**Katie Elles**  
Communications Specialist

**Christine Griffiths**  
Office Manager

**Shanique Gregory**  
Senior Communications  
Assistant

**Keisha Dunn**  
Administrative Assistant

**Ryan Barbar**  
Staff Assistant (temporary)

## Office of Legal Affairs

**Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera**  
Legal Counsel & Deputy  
to the Secretary-General

**Chapi Mwango**  
Chief, Contract Management Unit

**Yongsheng Cai**  
Senior Legal Officer

**Charlotte Salpin**  
Senior Legal Officer

**Gwénaëlle Le Gurun**  
Legal Officer

**Michelle Bond**  
Librarian

**Talatu Akindolire**  
Associate Legal Officer

**Annekah Mason**  
Training Coordinator

**Kayon Wray**  
Documents and Conference  
Management Officer

**Patrena Salmon**  
Administrative Assistant

## Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources

**Jihyun Lee**  
Director

**Pratima Jauhari**  
Senior Scientific Officer  
(Marine Geologist)

**Wanfei Qiu**  
Programme Manager  
(Marine Environment)

**Luciana De Melo  
Santos Genio**  
Environmental Analyst

**Sheldon Carter**  
Database Manager

**Kioshi Mishiro**  
GIS Officer

**Ansel Cadien**  
Senior Information  
Management Assistant

**Camelia Campbell**  
Administrative Assistant

**Tamique Lewis**  
Project Assistant, Data Support  
(programme funded)

**Ghislain Maertens**  
Director

**Anna Elaise**  
Communications and  
Information Technology Officer

**Zorana Maltar**  
Human Resources Officer

**Trudi-Ann Herdsman**  
Travel and Human Resources  
Assistant (temporary)

**Joseph Khoreich**  
Budget and Oversight Officer

**Aristakes Zurabian**  
Finance Officer

**Marcelle Lefebvre**  
Associate Human Resources  
Officer

**Esam Alnour**  
Associate Communications and  
Information Technology Officer

**Enoch Allen**  
Associate Security Officer

**Lilian Valles Carrillo**  
Associate Procurement Officer

**Fitzroy Ferguson**  
Senior Finance Assistant

**Ksenija Thompson**  
Finance Assistant

**Bobett Russell**  
Administrative Assistant

**Sheldon Gruber**  
Budget and Treasury Assistant

**Andre Brooks**  
Communications and Information  
Technology Assistant

**Wenley Bramwell**  
Communications and Information  
Technology Assistant

**Asenaca Navoti**  
Administrative Assistant, Office  
of the Permanent Observer for ISA  
to the United Nations, New York

**Sashi Walters-Brooks**  
Procurement Assistant

**Oswald Love**  
Driver

**Errol Evans**  
Driver

## Satya N. Nandan Library

The Satya N. Nandan Library, named after the first Secretary-General of ISA, is the main information resource for the Secretariat, members of ISA, permanent missions and researchers seeking specialist information on the law of the sea, ocean affairs, deep-seabed mining and seabed resources.

Services offered by the Satya N. Nandan Library include the provision of information, reference and research support and resources, as well as the distribution of the official documents and publications of ISA. The Library is an active member of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers, and the Library and Information Association of Jamaica. Together with ITLOS, the library is a partner in the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisitions Consortium - a United Nations system-wide libraries initiative - which generates considerable savings for participating agencies. ISA is committed to developing the specialized research capability of



the existing collection through its collection building programme, responding to changes in the delivery and formats of information and knowledge, aimed at providing a comprehensive reference service. The library has an online catalogue which may be accessed through the ISA Library Portal.



The Gallery, hosted at ISA headquarters in Kingston, highlights the history of deep-sea exploration voyages, such as that by HMS Challenger in 1873, as well as

milestone events including the Law of the Sea Conferences (1956-1994). It also provides a timeline of the establishment and development of ISA (1994-2019).

During 2020, the first phase of the ISA Gallery was completed following the acquisition of a number of exhibits, including by donations. The collections, which include ship models, samples of deep-sea mining technology, scientific equipment, maps, images, videos, virtual reality experience and geological samples, reveal the scope of the advancement of technology over the last few decades and of our growing understanding of deep-seabed mineral deposits and deep-seabed ecosystems and their functions.

ISA Gallery received financial support from China and Ghana and features items donated by BGR, China, COMRA, DORD, EMEPC, the Federal Agency of Mineral Resources of Russia, GSR, Ifremer, India, Nautilus Minerals, OMI, TOML, and UKSRL.

## In memoriam Satya N. Nandan (1936-2020)

In February 2020, the law of the sea community learned with profound sadness of the passing of H.E. Satya N. Nandan, of Fiji, who served for an unprecedented three terms as Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority from 1996 to 2008. Through his 12 years of leadership, he built the confidence of the international community in the institution and the system established for the governance of the resources of the deep seabed.

The fact that ISA is an important international institution today, effectively exercising its mandate to regulate activities in the deep seabed and promote marine scientific research for the benefit of humanity as a whole, is due to the efforts of Satya Nandan.

Ambassador Nandan's association with UNCLOS began in 1970. He headed the Fiji delegation to the Sea-bed Committee, the Preparatory Committee for UNCLOS III from 1970 to 1973, and the Fiji delegation to UNCLOS III from 1973 to 1982. He negotiated the regime for archipelagic States and passage through straits used for international navigation. Most notably, throughout this process, he fiercely defended the interests of Fiji and the Pacific Island States.

After Fiji became the first State to ratify UNCLOS in 1982, Ambassador Nandan dedicated himself to ensuring that UNCLOS would enter into force with universal participation. In 1983, Ambassador Nandan was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Perez de Cuellar as Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea. As Special Representative of the Secretary-General he led a campaign for the universal acceptance of UNCLOS and for its uniform and consistent application in State practice. As Under-Secretary-General and the head of the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea he was responsible for guiding the work of the Preparatory Commission for the establishment of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea from 1983 to 1992.

In 1990, he initiated, on behalf of the Secretary-General, a dialogue to resolve the outstanding issues relating to Part XI of UNCLOS. Subsequently, in 1993, as the delegate of Fiji, he was Chairman of the informal group (the "Boat Paper Group") that negotiated and drafted the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS adopted by the General Assembly on 28 July 1994. That Agreement resolved the outstanding issues and opened the door to universal participation in UNCLOS.



He was also elected Chairman of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks that resulted in the groundbreaking 1995 Implementation Agreement and led to the establishment of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Upon the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1994, as the Representative of Fiji, he was elected the first President of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention (1994-1996) and organized the first election of Judges for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (1996).

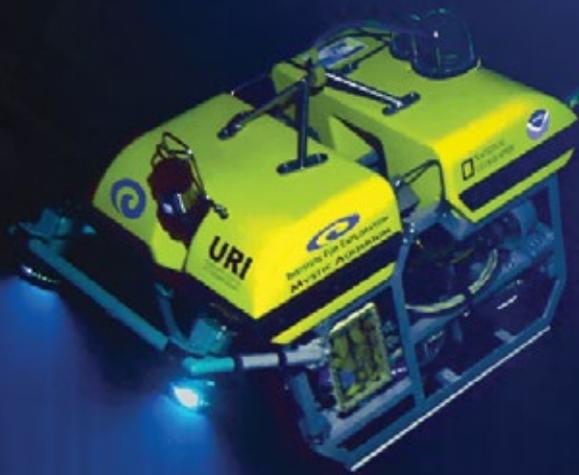
In addition to his work in the law of the sea, Ambassador Nandan was Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Fiji (1981-1983) and was a representative of his country at the United Nations (1970-1976 and 1993-1996). He was Fiji's representative on the Legal, Political, Decolonization and Disarmament Committees. He was also Fiji's Ambassador to the European Economic Community (EEC), Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (1976-1981). As Ambassador of Fiji to the EEC he participated in the negotiations for the Lome I, II and III Conventions between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the EEC relating to trade, investment and development in ACP countries.

He was accorded the rank of Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1978. He received the honor of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany from the President of Germany in 1996 for "work in the service of the law of the sea and international relations". In 2001, he was awarded Fiji's highest honour, Companion of the Order of Fiji.

In his passing, ISA and the international community as a whole have lost a great leader, whose role in the development of UNCLOS and in the establishment of ISA will never be forgotten. His inspirational presence, his wisdom, and his softly-spoken style of finding solutions through dialogue, will be deeply missed by all his colleagues and friends.



# 7 FINANCE & RESOURCES



Until ISA has sufficient funds from other sources (e.g., royalties from deep-sea mining) to meet its administrative expenses, those expenses shall be met by assessed contributions of its members. The scale of assessments for this purpose is based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations, adjusted for differences in membership, with a ceiling assessment rate of 22 per cent and a floor assessment rate of 0.01 per cent.

Since 2013, ISA has also applied a system of cost recovery whereby contractors are required to pay an annual overhead charge representing the cost of services provided to them by ISA. As of 2020, these overhead charges represent approximately 20 per cent of ISA revenues.

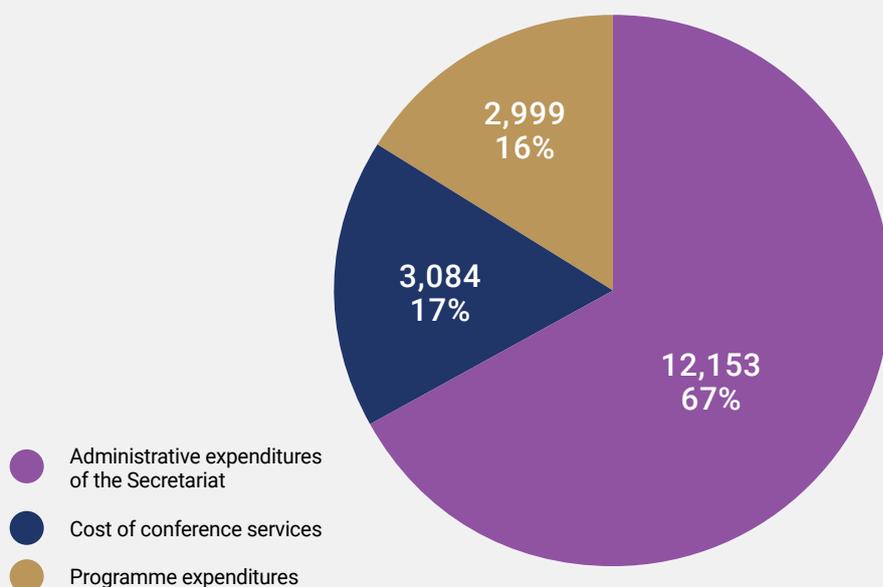
The budget of ISA is divided into two main parts. A general administrative fund covers the costs associated with running the Secretariat as well as

the costs of servicing the meetings of the various organs of ISA. In addition, a series of trust funds and voluntary funds have been established for different purposes, especially to enable the full participation of developing States in the activities of ISA. Besides, ISA has a working capital fund which, as of June 2020, had a balance of \$655,556 against an approved level of \$660,000.

In March 2019, ISA created a multi-donor trust fund for extra-budgetary support to attract voluntary contributions from member States and other donors to pay for non-regular activities or activities not funded by the approved budget. Contributions can be one-off or support multi-year programmes or projects. Funds are to be used in accordance with the terms agreed with the respective donors, including reporting and audit requirements. Since its creation, the fund raised almost US\$900,000 and had a net balance of US\$486,310 as of June 2020.

## 2019-2020 budget

ISA budget for the financial period 2019–2020 is US\$18,235,850 distributed as per the graphic below.<sup>70</sup>



Distribution of ISA budget (thousands of US\$)

<sup>70</sup> ISBA/24/A/11; ISBA/24/A/6 – ISBA/24/C/19.

## Voluntary trust funds

### Voluntary trust fund for the members of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee

The Voluntary Trust Fund to cover the costs of participation of members of the LTC and the FC from developing countries was established in 2002. As of June 2020, the total contributions to the fund over its lifetime amounted to US\$914,464.

Contributions - July 2019/June 2020	
Philippines	2 500
China	20 000
Contractors (NORI, GSR, UKSRL, Marawa, the Government of Poland and DORD)	58 010
<b>Total contributions over the period</b>	<b>80 510</b>
<b>Total contributions over lifetime</b>	<b>914 464</b>
<b>Total funds available as of June 2020</b>	<b>US\$3</b>

### Voluntary trust fund for the members of the Council

At its 23<sup>rd</sup> session in 2017, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council from developing States and ensure inclusive participation.<sup>71</sup>

As of June 2020, the total contributions to the fund amounted to US\$87,502 and the remaining balance was US\$20,579.

Contributions - July 2019/June 2020	
NORI	20 000
GSR	20 000
UKSRL	20 000
OMS	20 000
Government of the United Kingdom	7 502
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>87 502</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>66 923</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>US\$20 579</b>

### Voluntary trust fund for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise

At the first part of its 25<sup>th</sup> session, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund for the purpose of providing the requisite funds related to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise.<sup>72</sup> The fund was created on 1 March 2019. As of June 2020, four contributions had been made totaling US\$31,816 and the remaining balance of the fund was US\$5,968.

Contributions since March 2019	
NORI	10 000
GSR	7 500
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	9 816
Marawa	4 500
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>31 816</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>25 848</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>US\$5 968</b>

### Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area

During 2020 a contribution to the fund was made by the Government of Mexico (US\$10,000).

As of June 2020, the capital of the fund stood at US\$3,513,567. At the same date, a total amount of US\$610,209 had been disbursed from the interest accrued on the capital in the form of awards for projects.

<b>Total capital</b>	<b>3 513 567</b>
Accumulated interest	806 350
Expenditure	610 209
<b>Funds available (interest less expenditure)</b>	<b>US\$212 066</b>

<sup>71</sup> ISBA/23/A/13.

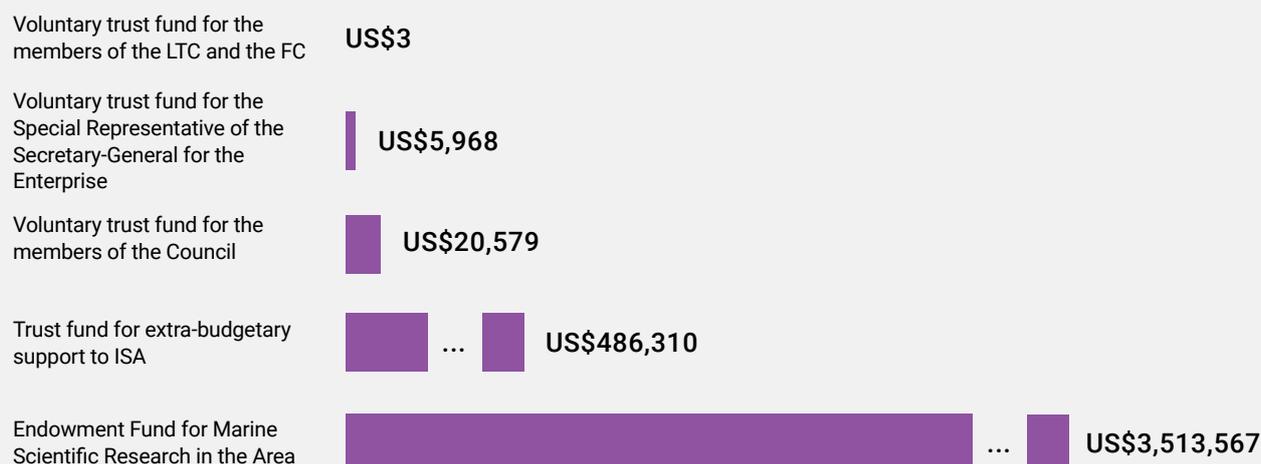
<sup>72</sup> ISBA/25/C/16.

## Trust fund for extra-budgetary support

As of June 2020, the fund had a net balance of US\$486,310, including bank charges and interest.

Contributions since March 2019	
Pew Charitable Trusts	40 000
African Development Bank	27 500
Republic of Korea	54 168
KMI	25 000
NORAD	524 069
National Environment Research Council of the UK	10 000
UN DESA	90 000
Government of Monaco	17 000
China	30 000
Ghana	25 000
ICAS	14 988
France	27 02
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>885 627</b>
<b>Total expenditures as per project agreements including bank charges and interests</b>	<b>399 317</b>
<b>Total available funds (US\$)</b>	<b>US\$486 310</b>

## Status of voluntary trust funds as at June 2020







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