

**Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)
Statements to the 25th Session of the ISA Assembly**

<http://dosi-project.org>

26th July 2019

Agenda Item 11: Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary

Good morning Madame President, Mr Secretary-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman,

The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the International Seabed Authority on their 25th Anniversary. Although our interaction with the Authority is relatively recent, we are grateful to be bringing deep-sea science to these important negotiations.

We know more now than we ever have about the deep seabed of the Area, including that it is rich in both life and minerals. But, the majority of the deep ocean remains to be explored and understood, including the ecology of species and communities, how they might cope with mining impacts, and perhaps most importantly, what roles deep-sea ecosystems play in terms of regulating the temperature of our planet, storing carbon, and cycling nutrients.

In its first 25 years, the ISA has progressively worked towards engaging with a range of stakeholders to assist in carrying out its mandate in the Area. This has included efforts to improve transparency and participation by requesting and incorporating broad stakeholder input into the work of the Authority, and the hosting of scientific side events during Annual Sessions that inform the wider ISA community.

In the coming 25 years, the ISA will play a pioneering role in enabling the effective management of the deep sea, both for the communities that live there and for all of humankind. To achieve this goal, we envisage many more collaborative ventures between stakeholders such as DOSI, and the Authority. DOSI would like to see the Authority continue to actively promote marine scientific research in the Area, with a view to improving our present understanding of the deep ocean. We believe that the best available science should be the driving force that informs the development of the Exploitation Regulations, other supporting instruments, such as Regional Environmental Management Plans and Standards & Guidelines, as well as overarching environmental goals and objectives that govern the Area.

With respect to capacity building and training programmes, DOSI views these as essential to foster future advancements in marine scientific research. Such measures will undoubtedly result in outcomes that will enhance the ability of all member States to participate in the work of the Authority.

In conclusion, DOSI again congratulates the ISA on their 25th anniversary, and we pledge our support as we look to the next 25 years of working together.

Thank you, Madame President.