



High Level Side-event by the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat: Securing the future of our Blue Pacific

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Friday 27 September 2019

REMARKS

by

Mr. Michael W. Lodge,
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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The International Seabed Authority is pleased to be here today to witness the adoption of this important political declaration and to offer our support to SIDS in implementing the SAMOA Pathway.

As recognized in the declaration, the ocean and marine resources are of overwhelming importance to Small Island Developing States.

All SIDS are Parties to UNCLOS and therefore, members of the International Seabed Authority, which is the organization established under UNCLOS to conserve and manage deep sea resources for the benefit of all humanity.

Nevertheless, a number of challenges remain if SIDS are to benefit fully from the opportunities offered by UNCLOS to help develop their Blue Economy. For instance, we all know that one critical challenge faced by SIDS is to be able to participate effectively in marine scientific research and more importantly, to access and utilize the results of such research to conserve and sustainably use their marine resources.

It is in this spirit that the Authority, in partnership with UN-DESA, is implementing the Abyssal Initiative, aimed at advancing the implementation of SDG14 through a series of capacity-building initiatives in Pacific SIDS. Three workshops under this project held already in Tonga, Nauru and Kiribati enabled Pacific SIDS to identify their most critical capacity-building needs in the field of environmental management, legal and policy development and marine scientific research.

Building on these very successful initiatives, the Authority is developing specific projects for SIDS in the Indian Ocean and Caribbean regions. We are working hard to make sure that these projects take shape between now and the 2020 UN Ocean Conference where we will report on the progress achieved.

I invite all of you to join us in these initiatives and to work together to progress the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.

I also invite you to join us in February 2020 in Jamaica when the Authority will organize for the first time an international workshop on resourcing and needs assessment for capacity-development. *This workshop will review and assess the capacity-building programmes and initiatives undertaken to date by the Authority under UNCLOS in order to improve their effectiveness and impact towards delivering the priorities of member States, including SIDS.* It will also provide an opportunity to create synergies with current and future partners for financing future initiatives. I thank you.