



**UN Global Compact Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business
High-Level meeting on Ocean:
Ocean as part of the solution – How industries can lead on delivering on the 17 SDGs and the
opportunities of the Ocean in particular**

Oslo, Norway

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Remarks
by
Mr. Michael W. Lodge,
Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority

[Check Against Delivery – 3 minutes]

Excellencies
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Like others, I would like to congratulate the UN Global Compact and the Government of Norway for organizing this meeting and bringing together so many ocean leaders. I also wish to commend the UN Global Compact, especially Lise Kingo, Sturla Henriksen and Erik Giercksky, for the excellent report on global goals and sustainable business principles that will be launched tomorrow. It is a very good report and ISA was pleased to have been able to make a contribution to it.

I also want to acknowledge the presence of my counterpart from IMO, Mr Kitack Lim. It is often said that the various organizations of the UN system do not work well together and do not cooperate, but I can assure you that for ISA and IMO that is not the case. In fact, we have excellent and in-depth cooperation on many subjects within our respective mandates and I am delighted that this is recognized by our joint presence here today.

Today I am representing ISA, which is the body established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to regulate deep sea mining. Deep sea mining is a new ocean industry. In fact, it is so new that not even one kilogram of ore has been recovered from the ocean. So you may ask why is ISA included in a discussion of how sustainable ocean business can help deliver the SDGs and why are we at ISA so committed to the work of this Action Platform.

I think there are three main reasons.

The first reason relates to the governance arrangements for deep sea mining.

Unlike any other part of the global commons, the deep seabed is subject to a unique global regime, managed through ISA, with an emphasis on equity in allocation of resources, combined with

environmental protection. No other resource on the planet is managed in this way. Yet here we have the example of the biggest raw material resource known to mankind that is managed by global rules that are binding on everyone and that put environmental protection at the front and centre of everything that we do. Because of the global nature of the regime, ISA is the body that decides how and where deep sea mining is carried out, under what conditions, how environmental impacts will be managed, and which areas will be protected.

This gives us a unique opportunity, not available to other industries, to get it right first time and avoid the mistakes of the past. In the words of the Minister this morning, there can be no production without protection.

The second reason is the role that ISA plays in promoting and sharing increased scientific knowledge of the deep ocean.

Scientific knowledge of the marine environment will be critical to achieving SDG14 and I cannot emphasize too highly the important role that ISA, the deep sea minerals industry and the scientific community, working together, will play in financing, supporting and sharing this work. Examples of the contributions being made as a direct result of deep sea mineral exploration are the joint work that ISA is doing with IOC-UNESCO and the Seabed 2030 project in terms of mapping of the seabed, improving and standardizing taxonomic knowledge and sharing deep ocean data. It is only through studies such as these that we will be able to identify the best measures required to protect the marine environment from the effect of human impact.

The third reason is the role ISA plays in meeting the aspirations of developing States. This includes facilitating participation by developing States in deep sea exploration, making sure that environmental data and information are freely available to developing States and building capacity through measures such as mandatory training programmes.

For some developing States, particularly those that lack resources on land, seabed mining could be an avenue to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda by expanding their resource base while at the same time building human and technological capacity. That is why several Small Island Developing States already see deep sea mining as an important element in meeting their Blue Economy targets.

To conclude, deep sea mining is a future ocean opportunity whose time has come. Mining and metals are essential for a low carbon future and are an integral part of achieving the 2030 Agenda. The problem is that under even the most optimistic scenarios, total materials requirements will increase at a pace faster than can be compensated by increased recycling or new discoveries on land. The deep seabed harbours the largest untapped mineral resource known to mankind, including the copper, manganese, nickel and cobalt that will be needed to support mass electrification.

So for all these reasons, ISA is delighted to be here today and delighted to have contributed to an outstanding report. We look forward to continuing to work with the Action Platform and to cooperating with all of you to achieve the global goals.

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