



Partnership Dialogue 5: Increasing economic benefits to small islands developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

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Statement

By

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The rich and abundant mineral resources of the deep seabed, both within national jurisdiction and beyond national jurisdiction, have the potential to make an important contribution to the blue economy of SIDS and LDCS.

In the case of seabed mineral resources beyond national jurisdiction, UNCLOS guarantees rights of access to these resources for all States, developed or developing, and provides a benefit-sharing mechanism that explicitly gives preference to developing countries, particularly landlocked and least developed countries. Special provision is also made for the representation of SIDS, LDCS and landlocked States in the governing bodies of the ISA.

Several SIDS have taken advantage of the UNCLOS regime to participate in activities in the international seabed Area, including Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Singapore

and Tonga. Several others are actively developing abundant mineral resources in their own jurisdictions. And of course, we are proud to be the only global organization hosted by a SIDS – the beautiful island of Jamaica.

We recognize that much more needs to be done to enable all SIDS and LDCs to benefit from these opportunities and to build capacity. That is why ISA has worked hard to develop strategic partnerships with regional organizations such as the Pacific Community so that we can better identify and respond to the specific needs of SIDS.

This week we are proud to announce several voluntary commitments specifically aimed at increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs.

These include:

- promoting the increased participation of nationals from SIDS and LDCs in marine scientific research, as well as promoting the empowerment of women in marine science;
- Working in partnership with UN-DESA, on developing capacity-building initiatives for the benefit of SIDS; and
- Working in partnership with the AMDC, to promote the sustainable development of Africa's marine mineral resources in support of Africa's Blue Economy.

We look forward to working with all of you to help improve economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and we congratulate all those who have registered voluntary commitments to this end.
