



**ISA - China Joint Training and Research Center
First training workshop on mineral resources, environmental management and data**

Kingston, Jamaica

24 May 2022

STATEMENT

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

.....
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from Kingston, Jamaica.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the first training workshop on mineral resources, environmental management and data organized under the auspices of the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Center (JTRC) to promote capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology for developing countries, members of the Authority.

Let me begin by thanking the Ministry of Natural Resources of China for its support in the organization of this virtual event. I am sure I will speak on behalf of all participants if I say that we would have loved to be able to be in Qingdao, China for a face-to-face workshop. However, it is nevertheless a great pleasure to launch this first training workshop of the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Center and I trust that we will find another opportunity to meet again soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The duty of the Authority to develop and implement mechanisms to build capacity for developing States, in accordance with its mandate under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement, finds its expression in the design of capacity-building initiatives that are meaningful, tangible, efficient, effective and targeted at the needs of developing States, as identified by them.

I attach particular importance to this training workshop as it has been designed to respond to capacity development needs identified by our members.

It is my firm belief that, to ensure the fully integrated participation of developing States in activities in the Area at all levels, ISA member States must be given the opportunity to access high-quality, transformative knowledge, learn with and from each other and apply their new understanding to real life scenarios in the Area and beyond.

This workshop will focus on three key areas of activity within the Authority's mandate under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement:

1. Survey and Assessment of Mineral Resources in the Area;
2. Characteristics of Deep Sea Ecosystems and Environmental Management; and
3. Global Repository of Data from Exploration Activities in the Area

I wish you a successful and productive training workshop and I very much look forward to hearing about the outcomes of your discussions.

Thank you.
