



HIGH LEVEL EVENT

Contribution of ISA to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Kingston, Jamaica

30 November 2021

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Greetings from Jamaica.

Let me welcome all our global participants to the public launch of our new report on the contribution of the International Seabed Authority to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I want to extend a special welcome to all the eminent experts and distinguished guests who will contribute to the discussion over the next two hours.

Colleagues,

Our mandate is given to us by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the subsequent 1994 Agreement, and it involves five core responsibilities. First, we must ensure that activities in the deep seabed are carried out for the benefit of all humanity. Second, we must ensure the effective protection of the marine environment.

Third, we must promote marine scientific research in the deep seabed. Fourth, we must ensure effective participation of developing States in the activities carried out in the deep seabed. And fifth, we must ensure that the benefits derived from the deep seabed are shared equitably for the benefit of humanity.

Both the Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan of the Authority for 2019-2023 recognize the importance for the Authority to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Further, amongst the key performance indicators for the Authority in implementing the Strategic Plan is the identification of the number of programmes and initiatives that contribute to achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The report we are launching today provides remarkable insight into the breadth and scope of the Authority's activities. More importantly, it provides hard evidence that the Authority, and the legal regime established by the Convention and the 1994 Agreement, actually contribute in a meaningful way to twelve of the 17 SDGs.

This report is therefore of critical importance. I am delighted to present it as our first contribution to support the call of the UN Secretary-General for the Decade of Action to deliver the 2030 promises. It is worth mentioning that the report also coincides with the beginning of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for which our membership has unanimously endorsed a dedicated Action Plan.

I am very grateful to all of those involved in the preparation of this important report. I particularly wish to acknowledge and thank the Group of Ten internationally renowned experts who gave freely of their time and expertise to help us prepare this report. It was a great pleasure working with such a distinguished group and I thank each and every one of them for their contribution.

I also thank all those who accepted to be interviewed for the report. We deliberately made sure that the interviewees would reflect as many perspectives as possible and that their views would be taken into account.

I was impressed by the fact that although they had different views on many issues, all interviewees shared a strong sense of commitment to the underlying mission of the Authority. I am confident that with your continued support we will deliver transformative actions to advance the 2030 Agenda and ensure the sustainable stewardship of the deep seabed and its resources for the benefit of all humanity.
