



## **Partnership Dialogue 6: Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology**

Thursday 8 June 2017, 15:00-18:00

*Statement by H. E. Michael W. Lodge, Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority*

An essential part of the mission of the International Seabed Authority is to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the seabed beyond national jurisdiction.

Improved scientific knowledge is critical to effective management.

Recognizing this, the Authority is mandated to coordinate and disseminate the results of such research for the benefit of all, particularly the developing countries.

We have long recognized that strategic global partnerships are the key to mobilizing scarce resources to carry out deep sea scientific research and share the results. The Authority has forged productive and dynamic partnerships with member States, deep sea exploration contractors, scientific entities and academia. The concept note for this Partnership Dialogue recognizes the progress that we have made in terms of

capacity building, but also identifies the need to do more, and especially to leverage new technologies to benefit developing countries.

In this regard, the Authority will be offering its support to several of the partnership initiatives and voluntary commitments announced during this Conference, including offering our support to IOC-UNESCO in launching a long-term international ocean science initiative to support the implementation of Agenda 2030 and working with IOC-GEBCO to contribute to Seabed 2030.

Today, we are pleased to draw your attention to three of the voluntary commitments made by ISA for this conference:

- We will work with the University of Hawaii and other stakeholders to establish long-term deep sea observatories as part of a global DOOS system to monitor environmental variables and improve understanding of ecosystem functions in the deep sea.
- We are working with exploration contractors and the global scientific community to establish publicly accessible online atlases of scientifically classified species collected from the international seabed. This will significantly enhance international understanding of deep sea biodiversity.
- We have committed to enhance the role of women in marine scientific research through targeted capacity-building. We believe that raising awareness of and increasing the participation of women is an important

avenue to enhance the scientific and technological capabilities of developing States, in particular those of SIDS and LDCs.

I invite all of you to join us in these partnerships.