Ocean in the 2030 Agenda: UN-Oceans harbouring SDG14

UN-Oceans side event at the UN Ocean Conference

Monday 5 June 2017, 18.15-19.30, Conference Room B

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

As one of the three institutions established by UNCLOS, and with its specific mandate over the seabed beyond national jurisdiction, ISA has an important role to play in the implementation of SDG14 and Agenda 2030 in general.

In fulfilling that mandate it is essential that we work closely with our sister institutions – DOALOS and ITLOS – as well as other organizations with a mandate relating to oceans.

It is precisely in this spirit that UN-Oceans was mandated by its terms of reference to improve the coherence and complementarity of the different activities undertaken by its members.

ISA is pleased to play its part as a member of UN-Oceans and to contribute to improved coordination of activities. In this regard, ISA was privileged to host the most recent face-to-face meeting of UN-Oceans at our headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica.

I think I speak on behalf of all UN-Oceans members, when I say that regular exchange of information and closer consultation amongst us have significantly contributed to better coordination between all competent organizations.

In the case of ISA, our commitment to better cooperation and coordination is manifested in the MOUs we have concluded with both IMO, IOC-UNESCO and IHO, as well as ongoing discussions we are undertaking with IAEA.

It is quite possible that without the framework offered by UN-Oceans, it would not have been possible to make such progress.

We look forward to building on this progress going forward and working with others to strengthen UN-Oceans as a global mechanism for policy coherence. We believe that a well-organized global partnership can help to promote an integrated approach to the implementation of SDG14, particularly in the areas of deep sea scientific research, sharing of information and capacity-building.