



COP27 side event on technologies and scientific knowledge in support of exploration for marine mineral resources

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Dear Excellencies, dear participants, it is a sincere pleasure to welcome you to this event on technologies and scientific knowledge in support of exploration for marine mineral resources.

I am grateful to the Government of Egypt for supporting this event and wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, His Excellency Prof. Mohamed Ayman Ashour.

I would like to particularly convey my gratitude to the President of the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Egypt, Professor Amr Hamouda, for our fruitful collaboration.

I would also like to thank our moderator Dr. Suzan M. El-Gharabawy, Head of the Marine Geophysics Department at the NIOF, for her invaluable role in designing the programme of this workshop.

I am also extremely grateful to our speakers: Directors Wentao Wang and Olujumoke Ogunrayi, President François Houllier, and Ms. Linda Ansu-Kyeremeh.

As discussions continue here at COP27 and as we look to the future it is clear that an inclusive, equitable and green energy transition is at the core of achieving the Paris Agreement and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mineral resources, including marine minerals, have a central role to play in decarbonising our economies. Increasing the supply of critical minerals is indispensable to the success of the green energy transition.

As countries step up their climate ambitions, clean energy technologies are set to become the fastest-growing segment of demand for most critical minerals. Last March, for example, the International Energy Agency predicted that mineral demand would quadruple by 2040 and this estimate has since been confirmed by multiple independent sources.

In the effort to achieve these key goals, we must ensure that the energy transition is accomplished equitably, with the protection of the environment at the front and centre of our considerations, using the best available science and leaving no country behind.

How we achieve these goals is a central challenge for humanity.

The success of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, in providing a legal regime for the use of the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction, has demonstrated clearly that it is multilateralism that provides the best framework to pursue global solutions to global challenges.

This year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of UNCLOS and the twenty-seventh anniversary of the International Seabed Authority. These milestones provide us with a concrete example of how the international community has been able to come together to ensure the sound management of global public goods for the benefit of humanity as a whole.

ISA's mandate is to ensure that these marine mineral resources, which are the common heritage of humanity, are developed in a way that protects the marine environment, and that gives all States, rich or poor, developed or developing, equal access to resources, scientific knowledge, and technology.

ISA is committed to empowering developing countries to grasp this opportunity and supports the transfer of scientific knowledge and technology to developing States. In so doing, we give particular attention to the specific needs of the most vulnerable including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. We are also proud to work closely with more than 20 partners to advance empowerment of women scientists from developing States in deep-sea related disciplines under our Women in Deep-Sea Research project.

At this event today, you will learn from experts from different countries and continents about their efforts to advance deep-sea mineral exploration with a specific focus on discussing opportunities for the African continent. We will also highlight one of our key capacity development programmes, the Africa Deep Seabed Resources project. This project was implemented in partnership with the African Union and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and provides professionals from developing countries with technical skills and capacity-building on deep-seabed related matters.

Finally, I would like to reiterate ISA's commitment to expanding and deepening our scientific knowledge of the deep seabed and to building the capacities that the world needs to protect the marine environment and sustainably manage the ocean and its vast resources for the benefit of all humankind.

Only through such cooperation and collaboration can we provide inclusive, effective solutions to the critical challenges the world faces today.

Thank you very much and I wish you all fruitful and productive discussions.
