



**2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference High-Level Segment on
“Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”**

Montreal, Canada

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Question: “International organisations will be critical to help to drive delivery of the global biodiversity framework. How will your organisation help galvanise urgent action to deliver on the framework?”

Thank you.

Let me start by agreeing with the premise of the question.

International organizations will be critical in driving delivery. Why?

Because international organizations are the best vehicles we have to deliver multilateral goals and it is only through multilateralism that we can come together to achieve the best outcome towards shared ambitions.

Strong multilateralism is fundamental in addressing the daunting global dilemmas that humanity is facing, including biodiversity loss, climate change, increased urbanization, and poverty reduction.

Let me also thank you for giving space to the ocean on this panel.

And turn to the International Seabed Authority – responsible for stewardship of 54% of the global seafloor and the only intergovernmental organization mandated to act as trustee, under an international treaty of a global commons.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes a complete legal regime for the co-management of a global commons beyond national jurisdictions, in this case the deep sea.

ISA offers the best example of how the international community can collaborate for environmental protection whilst at the same time allowing for sustainable use of a critical shared resource.

So how can we scale up our actions?

First, more science and data sharing:

Since 1994, we have accumulated unique experiences in marine spatial planning, facilitating collection of data and information in the deep-sea and their dissemination to all.

Since 2001, ISA contractors have invested more than \$260 million on ISA-mandated environmental studies in their exploration areas. The collected environmental data are accessible through our open database, DeepData. DeepData is thriving and expanding with cutting edge data on deep-sea biodiversity and ecosystems. We will continue working with our contractors to further share these valuable data for informed decision-making and improved knowledge of biodiversity.

Our new flagship programme, in partnership with the EU and ROK, the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative, is committed to increasing the number of described deep-sea species by at least one thousand by 2030.

Second, by putting in place the most stringent environmental regulation – through global consensus – to ensure that no activity in the deep ocean can take place without the consent and under the supervision of ISA.

This includes putting in place protected areas following frameworks such as those of the CBD. For example, right now, even before any activity has taken place, over 1.9 million square km of the seafloor are protected from future mineral exploitation in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. We will extend the number and coverage of protected seabed areas.

Third, capacity building and transfer of technology. Full and equal participation of developing countries is fundamental to the success of multilateral initiatives.

We will ensure in accordance with UNCLOS that all countries, particularly developing States, can build sufficient capacity and scientific expertise to benefit from the opportunities arising from the development of seabed resources. Our MSR Action Plan in support of the UN Decade, and our new partnership fund, adopted by ISA Assembly in 2022 will be fundamental to these efforts and I invite all of you to join us.

Mr. President, let me add here a word to commend China's leadership through the Authority in supporting efforts to build capacity.

And fourth, but not least, cooperation and collaboration between international organizations, full respect for each other's unique mandates. We must work together in a more committed way to implement globally agreed targets, including the post 2020 framework.

I thank you.
