



World Ocean Week

Xiamen, China

10-16 November 2022

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Greetings from Kingston, Jamaica, and the International Seabed Authority.

I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the organizers of World Ocean Week 2022 in the beautiful city of Xiamen.

This year, the theme of this conference is science, innovation, and international cooperation in support of the sustainable development goals.

All of these are at the forefront of the activities of the International Seabed Authority as we fulfil our mandate to manage activities in the deep seabed beyond the national jurisdiction of States. The deep seabed covers more than half of the ocean floor and is the largest part of the global ocean.

Since 1994, when the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea entered into force, this Area has been managed through the International Seabed Authority based on equality between States under a comprehensive legal regime designed to achieve the sustainable use of marine mineral resources for the benefit of humanity.

The Authority delivers this unique mandate in full transparency and applying a precautionary approach. The regime ensures equity in access to and allocation of resources, long-term sustainability in terms of protection of the marine environment and equitable sharing of benefits with respect to sharing of scientific knowledge of the deep seabed as well as financial and economic benefits.

The regime for the Area thus underpins the legal framework for the implementation of SDG14 and makes an important contribution to the achievement of twelve of the 17 SDGs.

World Ocean Week is a symbol of China's commitment to SDG14 and recognizes that investing in science and technology, including the empowerment of women, is fundamental to developing sustainable ocean-based economies.

The Authority remains committed to playing its part and is willing to continue to serve as a platform for international cooperation for capacity development.

Fundamentally, the mission of ISA is to promote the effective participation of all developing States in deep sea exploration and to ensure that the benefits of marine science and technology are distributed equitably. Having had the opportunity to visit Xiamen once before, I look forward to the possibility in 2023 of being with you in person. In the meantime, I wish you all the best for a successful event.
