



**5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)**

**High-level Thematic Round Table 1: Investing in people in least developed countries to leave no one behind**

**Doha, Qatar**

**5 March 2023**

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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I thank you for this opportunity to indicate how the International Seabed Authority is mobilising partnerships with LDCs and others to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and particularly with a view to ensure that the necessary attention is given to people.

Today, the 46 LDCs account for 1.2 billion people, which represent approximately 17% of the world population, most of them in Africa.

In this context and as we gather this afternoon to discuss how to unlock the opportunities for growth and development, we need to ensure that each of them is provided with the opportunity to expand her or his horizons, develop, grow and effectively contribute to shaping our common future.

This is even more imperative when it comes to ensure the participation of LDCs in the co-management of global commons. And this is what ISA is mandated to do.

Established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted 40 years ago, the Authority is the international organization responsible for regulating access and use of the international seabed area and the seabed mineral resources that can be found for the benefit of all.

In so doing, ISA has the duty to ensure the effective participation of developing States having due regard to their special interests and needs, and in particular to the special need of the most vulnerable.

The DPoA is of particular significance to ISA because so many of the commitments in the DPoA are directly related to the availability and access to mineral resources, to support the green energy transition, the need for more quality infrastructure and access to new economic sectors.

Against this background I want to mention three specific partnerships we have established:

- ISA and the UN Technology Bank have partnered to build and develop the capacities of LDCs in support of emerging sectors of the blue economy.
- Together with UN-OHRLLS, we are leading an ambitious programme to advance women's empowerment and leadership of women scientists from LDCs in emerging fields of marine scientific research and marine technology.
- Together with competent international and regional organisations and LDCs, we are identifying concrete measures to promote and encourage the transfer of marine technology so that all benefit from the green energy revolution and pursue the achievement of the SDGs.

You can see that we have placed a great emphasis on supporting the needs of LDCs for enhanced education and expertise particularly to support them in building and developing their scientific, technical and legal capacity.

A lot has been done but more is needed and we are eager to do so to elevate our existing partnerships with LDCs and other interested entities to synergise ISA activities with the DPoA.

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