

**Statement on behalf of David Cooper,  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**under agenda item 17 of the Cooperation with other relevant international organizations**

**20 July 2023, ISA HQ**

Thank you Mr President,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and observers,

It is my great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I would like to update you regarding on-going collaboration between CBD Secretariat and ISA secretariat, which has been undertaken through the UN Ocean coordination mechanism as well as the exchange of a Letter of Cooperation signed in February 2022, in particular regarding sharing scientific expertise and experience for biodiversity assessment and monitoring, application of area-based management tools and biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessments, capacity building, among others.

Deep-sea provides the largest habitat for life on earth. Being the most difficult place to access, the role of scientific cooperation at global level is very critical for the conservation and sustainable use of deep-sea biodiversity.

Enhanced taxonomic capacity for biodiversity assessment, including the ability to identify species through standardized approaches, will underpin our collective efforts to bend the curve of biodiversity loss.

In this context, CBD secretariat appreciates the on-going collaboration with ISA and its partners to facilitate generating and disseminating deep-sea biodiversity knowledge and enhancing national capacity on marine biodiversity assessment, within the context of the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative.

This international collaboration on deep-sea biodiversity knowledge will support the implementation of the new set of goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, in Montreal, December 2022.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets out four outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050 and 23 action-oriented targets to be achieved by 2030 in order to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to put nature on the path to recovery.

Nearly all of the 23 targets are highly relevant to the drivers of biodiversity loss that ISA is addressing, as well as the policy measures and tools being applied or proposed by ISA in its regulations.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision 15/13, invited the governing bodies of international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation. CBD Secretariat has sent an official letter to the Secretary General of ISA in this regard.

I am also happy to inform you of our continuing collaboration with ISA on the Sustainable Ocean Initiative of CBD, through which the CBD Secretariat has facilitated for more than 10 years to enhance capacity development and catalyze global partnerships with various UN Ocean members and relevant regional bodies towards the achievement of global goals and targets for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

In this context, we appreciate the development of regional environmental management plans by ISA, in which we noted with appreciation that the scientific and technical experience and the network of expertise of CBD with regard to the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas have contributed to this important process of ISA. We look forward to continuing our collaboration for its successful outcomes and future implementation.

Through our continued efforts for collaboration, we hope to support our respective member States in their implementation towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 14, which will create enabling conditions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Thank you.

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