

Comments of India on the draft Strategic Plan for the International Seabed Authority for the five-year period 2024-2028.

General questions

1. Does the Draft Strategic Plan for the period 2024-2028 clearly encapsulate the mandate and responsibilities set out for the Authority by the Convention and the 1994 Agreement?

- Yes, it does. Infact it is an extension of the previous plans except that scope has been enhanced based on the progress of the activities during the previous period. Similar to the previous plan, this plan is also based on the Convention and 1994 agreement.

2. How do you think the Strategic Plan and associated High-Level Action Plan have contributed to fulfil the mission of ISA (as per the mission statement)?

- The strategic plan and the high-level action plan, through the activities of ISA and Contractors have contributed to achieve the stated mission.

3. To what extent to do you think the work of ISA provides a useful model for sustainable management of the global commons as Steward of the Area and its resources?

- ISA has the mandate for implementing sustainable management of the global commons, which ISA has been performing with the contributions of the contractors and the member states.

4. What should be the priorities of the Authority for the next five years?

- To encourage contractors to undertake development work in the mining technology and environmental studies. Also, providing leadership in developing collaboration among parties and help to transfer of technology to developing nations.

Specific questions

5. Does the “*Mission Statement*” (unchanged from the first strategic plan) continue to accurately reflect the mandate of the Authority?

- Yes, it does.

6. How do you consider that the context and challenges identified remain relevant? Should there be any new elements identified?

- Yes, these remain relevant. The idea of technology transfer in the field of exploration, environment and mining may be an important element to be identified.

7. Are the “*Results and Priority Outputs*” appropriate and is there a clear link between the “*Strategic Directions*” and the “*Results and Priority Outputs*”?

- Yes, they are appropriate but will need to be reviewed at the end of the plan to verify if the link is established.

8. Are there any specific observations or comments that Member States and other stakeholders wish to make in connection with any other aspect of the Draft Strategic Plan for 2024-2028?

- The following comments may be noted in this regard:
 - a. The Authority must aim to optimise the operational costs, so as not to undesirably burden the contractors and member states.
 - b. The level of transparency needs to be upgraded for instance; the Authority may like to place all the relevant data in respect of reserved area as well as relinquished area in their website.
 - c. The various engagement of consultants/service providers may also be on transparent basis, so that the contractors and state parties are kept informed for such decisions.