



International Seabed Authority – Secretary General Annual Report

Malta Statement

President,

Malta thanks the Secretary – General for his annual report: the format and the quality of the work, are greatly appreciated. The report is testament to the extensive work done and the results achieved by the Authority in one year.

Malta appreciates the ISA's work to meet the 2030 Agenda, as reflected in the ISA's contribution to 12 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This work was also highlight in the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and the UNGA commemoration ceremony for the 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS.

The ISA and the Secretary General continue to have a leading role in the advancement of women empowerment and leadership in Ocean Affairs, further closing the Gender Inequality Gap, contributing to SDG 5. Malta is proud to have supported the organisation of the Women in the Law of the Sea Conference for 2022 together with the Permanent Mission of Singapore.

We take note of the new strategic partnerships established to support the work of the Authority, and we welcome increased partnerships with scientific organisations tasked with research from the developing states, all aimed to deliver on the mandate UNCLOS, and the 1994 Agreement assign to the ISA. We also



welcome and support the collaboration with our International Maritime Law Institute.¹

President,

Having touched upon the ISA's mandate, we must not fail to recognise that the mandate of the Authority keeps on growing as it has under the BBNJ Agreement. We support the ISA and the Secretary General in their work to fulfill the specific and unique mandate of the ISA as the Steward of the Area. The ISA has a unique role in ensuring protection of the marine environment in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – as of today, the ISA is the only intergovernmental organization with a global mandate that allows the international community to protect the ABNJ – and it does so successfully giving impetus to the “precautionary approach” along which all the work of the Authority is based.

Malta further acknowledges the ISA's role under article 143 of the Convention regarding the Marine Scientific Research in the Area, and the progress achieved in implementing the strategic research priorities identified in the ISA MSR Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science. We welcome the launch of the Deep Dive e-learning platform which will further reinforce the Authority's work by supporting the capacities and skills of young professionals and experts. Echoing other delegations we note the specific efforts in advancing deep-sea literacy, while taking stock of the publications and research papers produced by the Secretariat to support ongoing discussions.

¹ Page 26 of the Report of the Secretary General



We support the work of the Finance Committee to develop options for the equitable – benefit sharing² together with any other economic benefits from activities in the Area, as established by Part XI of the Convention. Moreover, Malta is interested in supporting the Common Heritage Fund (initially proposed as the Seabed Sustainability Fund)³, aimed at investing financial benefits from activities in the Area in people and in preserving and developing the Area sustainably.

Malta supports and commends the important work and efforts of the Secretary General to ensure that there is an ongoing improvement of the organisational performance in support of the evolutionary approach embedded in the Convention and the 1994 Agreement; doing so provides the Authority's personnel with an enhanced skillset, making the Authority better equipped in meeting the demands of its ever-growing mandate.

President,

Transparency in the work of the Authority remains key for its proper functioning, we thus recognize the transparent and inclusive manner with which discussions have been carried out on the development of the draft exploitation regulation.

Malta continues to stand by its position, the work of the Authority must be guided by data and science. Data and Scientific research are the best indicators to tell us what is in the best interest of our planet and humanity, to further protect the

² Page 73 of the Report of the Secretary General

³ Page 5 of the Report of the Finance Committee (https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ISBA_28_A_4-ISBA_28_C_13-1.pdf)



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Common Heritage of Mankind. Future generations will not judge us by our words,
but by our actions. I thank you.