



Note No. C. 21/2023

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Jamaica presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Authority and has the honour to forward the attached documents being the written submission on the first draft strategic plan for the International Seabed Authority for year 2024-2028.

In this regard, it is pertinent to state that the attached documents are responses received from the Federal Ministry of Justice and Nigerian Navy in Nigeria for further necessary action.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Jamaica avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Authority, the assurances of its highest consideration. *JY*

Kingston, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

International Seabed Authority  
14-20 Port Royal Street,  
Kingston, Jamaica.



# FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

## General questions

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

Answer: Yes, the draft strategic plan captures the mandate of and responsibilities of the ISA as set out in Part XI UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement.

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

Answer: the draft strategic plan embodies the role of the ISA with respect to control of activities in the Area. It states the need for exploitation regulations, environmental protection, equitable sharing of benefits, participation of developing States in activities in the Area, sharing results of marine scientific research, capacity development and technology transfer including promotion of oceans related Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, it promotes the SDG 14 (life below water).

This contributes to the mission statement of the ISA in promoting the safe, management and development of resources in the area, for the benefit of humankind including ensuring protection of the marine environment through the best scientific evidence available.

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

Answer: It provides a useful model for States in promoting Sustainable Development Goals, particularly, Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development)

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

Answer: Continue to carry out its obligations regarding activities in the area and its responsibility in the protection of the marine environment.

#### Specific Questions

5. Does the "Mission Statement" (unchanged from the first strategic plan continue to reflect the mandate of the Authority for the next five years? Answer: Yes.

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

Answer: They are all relevant considering the changing tides of the ocean and lapse of the two-year rule on mining activities. The two-year rule obligates the ISA to allow mining proceed within two years, whether or not decision makers have agreed upon a final set of mining regulations. The need to complete the exploitation regulations is more important than ever. Also, the protection of the marine environment is important considering the environmental concerns raised by the scientific community. For developing State like Nigeria, there is need for capacity building and transfer of marine technology including promotion and sharing results of marine scientific research in order to participate in activities in the Area regarding strategic direction 2. 4.

7. Are the "Results and Priority Outputs" appropriate and is there a clear link between the "Strategic Directions" and the "Results and Priority Outputs"? Answer: Yes!

8. Are there any specific observation 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? Answer: Nil

# NIGERIAN NAVY

## WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON FIRST DRAFT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 2024 - 2028

1. Below are the inputs of the Nigerian Navy on the First Draft of the Strategic Plan for the International Seabed Authority for the Year 2024 - 2028. The inputs are guided by the prompts outlined in form of General and Specific questions.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

Question: 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?

Answer: Having studied the Draft Strategic Plan for the period 2024-2028 and its various sections as well as core provisions, we are satisfied that it clearly encapsulates the mandate and responsibilities set out for the Authority by the Convention and the 1994 Agreement

Question: 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)?

Answer: The Strategic Plan and associated High-Level Action Plan fulfil the ISA Mission having clearly laid out a system that involves a broad stakeholder base which includes States parties, sponsoring States, flag States, coastal States, State enterprises, private investors, other users of the marine environment and interested global and regional intergovernmental organizations. It also

*specifies the Authority's roles in the development, implementation and enforcement of rules and standards for activities in the Area to ensure that these activities are carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole.*

Question: To what extent 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?

Answer: *The work of the ISA has to a large extent provided a very useful model and structure for sustainable management of the global commons as Steward of the Area and its resources. The regulatory role played by the Authority has controlled and prevented indiscriminate exploitation of resources in the Area by a few to the detriment of the majority of mankind. We therefore have a firm belief that with further work on operationalising the Enterprise and the legal framework, the goal of attaining a sustainable exploitation of deep sea resources in the Area would be facilitated by the ISA.*

Question: What should be the priorities of the Authority for the next five years?

Answer: *In the next 5 years the ISA should focus on:*

- a. Full operationalisation of the Enterprise.*
- b. Standardising and adopting the legal framework for the exploitation of deep sea resources in the Area while protecting the marine environment and human life.*
- c. Capacity building for developing States*

## SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Question: Does the "Mission Statement" (unchanged from the first strategic plan) continue to accurately reflect the mandate of the Authority?

Answer: *The mission still accurately reflects the mandate of the ISA in spite of the passage of time. It has comprehensively covered the aspects of providing a framework for control of activities in the Area as a common heritage of mankind, safe and responsible management and development of the resources of the Area and contributing to agreed international objectives and principles, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Most importantly, the mission aims at developing and maintaining a comprehensive regulatory mechanism for commercial deep seabed mining that incorporates effective protection of the marine environment and of human health and safety and the equitable sharing of economic benefits from activities in the Area.*

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

Answer: *We consider the context and challenges quite relevant as they cover the most essential elements that need to be considered in managing the Area as a common heritage of mankind. From the issues of globalization and sustainable development, exploitation regulations, environmental protection and sharing of proceeds of marine scientific research to capacity development, technology transfer, equitable sharing and organizational development, all points are adequately covered.*