



Consultation 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**
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 9 strategic directions fulfil the mission of ISA, since they guarantee the regulation of activities in the AREA, taking into account the effective protection of the marine environment in accordance with sound principle of conservation and contributing to agreed international objectives and principles, including the sustainable Development Goals, promoting orderly, safe and responsible management and development of the resources in the AREA as a common heritage of mankind.**
3. 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? **It's a useful and robust model of sustainable management of the resources in the AREA since its strategy lays down in making an effort to find the balance between the promotion of sustainable development, the effort to reinforce the regulatory framework for activities in the AREA, ensure its environment protection, the incentive to sharing the results of marine scientific research and the facilitation of the participation of developing States in activities in the AREA, guaranteeing the equitable sharing of benefits and the transparency, making an effort to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of the regulatory regime and to be ready to perform its functions as a supervisory body in anticipation of the commencement of the commercial exploitation of deep seabed minerals.**
4. What should be the priorities of the Authority for the next five years? **The priorities of the Authority, regarding to the activities in the AREA should be the assessment and continuous monitoring of the potential environmental impacts of the mineral exploration and exploitation in the AREA, the promotion and the encouragement of marine scientific research before the launch of the mineral exploration activities and the reinforcement of the regulatory framework for activities in the AREA. Prioritizing these strategic directions is the basis to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment and human life and guarantee the orderly, safe and rational management of the resources for**

the benefit of mankind as a whole and the efficient conduct of activities in the AREA, based of the best available scientific evidence.
The priorities should include measurable specific targets throughout the duration of the plan.

Specific questions

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

6. How do you consider that the context and challenges identified remain relevant? Should there be any new elements identified? **The challenges identified remain relevant, however the prioritization of the strategic directions should be defined.**

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, all the expected outcomes are well supported by the guiding principles of the strategic plan and consequently by the proposed strategic directions.**

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 promotion and the encouragement of marine scientific research before the launch of the mineral exploration activities, the reinforcement of the regulatory framework for activities in the AREA and the assessment and continuous monitoring of the potential environmental impacts of the mineral exploration and exploitation in the AREA should be the priority in the Strategic Plan of the Authority for 2024-2028, being the basis that will guarantee that the resources exploration and the activities in the AREA will be managed align with the Convention and 1994 Agreement objectives and principles.**

We would like to note that the regulatory framework for activities in the Area will constitute international instrument of public international law. Therefore, relevant rules of interpretation, namely Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties will be applicable. Against this background, it is necessary to take into account the broader international legal framework, including the Convention on Biological Diversity or the BBNJ Agreement, when determining the legal content of the regulations.