



## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To apply for 3-month deployment with the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority in the context of the implementation of the joint project between ISA and the UN Technology Bank for LDCs entitled

*“Building and developing capacities of least developed countries in deep-sea related science, technology and innovation in support of sustainable development of blue emerging economies project”*

<b>Area or work</b>	Marine science and technology, minerals, and raw materials
<b>Terms</b>	National expert deployment
<b>Duration</b>	3 months
<b>Department</b>	Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources (OEMMR) Executive Office of the Secretary General
<b>Duty Station</b>	Kingston (Jamaica)
<b>Deadline</b>	30 September 2023

### ABOUT ISA

1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole. In so doing, ISA has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities. ISA, which has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of UNCLOS.

### ABOUT UNTBLDC

2. The United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries is a global organization dedicated to enhancing the contribution of science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development in the world’s 46 least developed countries. The UN Technology Bank helps least developed countries build the science, technology and innovation capacity that they need to promote the structural transformation of their economies, eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development.

## **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

3. The oceans and their marginal seas, covering almost 71 per cent of the surface of the Earth, play a significant role in the development of humanity. They host a wide biological diversity, regulate Earth's surface temperature, provide important water resources, control climate and weather, provide food and minerals, generate oxygen, and ensure communication, transportation, trade and recreation. The dependence of the world population on the ocean economy has steadily increased over the past 100 years to satisfy the ever-growing needs of humanity. Thanks to ongoing technological progress and innovation, access to different maritime areas and their resources, whether living or non-living, has reached new frontiers and opened new prospects. This presents new challenges and imperatives such as the need to peacefully manage global commons resources and to ensure equity in access to, and the distribution of benefits from, such resources together with the application of rigorous and adaptive measures for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. These imperatives are also central to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including but not limited to: SDG14, which urges all States to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, SDG 7 as it relates to ocean science and technology in achieving the 2030 Agenda; SDG 17 which serves as foundation to leverage international and regional partnerships in ocean science and technology and SDG 5, to support women's empowerment and leadership in ocean science and technology.

4. Pursuant to UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement, ISA carries out different activities to promote the effective participation of developing States in activities undertaken in the Area having due regard to their special interests and needs, and in particular to the special need of the landlocked and technology less advanced among them (UNCLOS, Art. 148). ISA is also under the obligation to take measures to promote and encourage the transfer to developing States of technology and scientific knowledge relating to activities in the Area, so that all States parties benefit therefrom (UNCLOS, art.144(1)(b)).

5. At present, UNCLOS has almost achieved universality. As of May 2023, it had 169 parties, which includes 168 States and the European Union, all members of ISA. At the same time, 46 countries are designated by the UN as least developed countries (LDCs). Nine of them, mainly landlocked States, have so far not become parties to UNCLOS. It is to be noted that the interests of different LDCs regarding their rights and benefits under UNCLOS vary widely depending on their geographical location. The majority of LDCs are coastal States, while 17 are landlocked. Some are large coastal States and eight are small island States.

6. According to the Least Developed Countries Report 2020 issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), LDCs are among the world's most vulnerable economies, as reflected in the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI), which indicates that they are

30 per cent more vulnerable than other developing countries and face the risk of being left further behind as the technological gap widens between them and more technologically-advanced countries.

7. The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031, adopted during the first part of the LDC5 conference in March 2022 calls for a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments between the LDCs and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society, and governments at all levels. The DPoA highlights the need for the UN system including its specialized agencies to provide finance, technical support, assistance, and policy support to the LDCs on priority focus areas. The six key areas of focus identified in the DPoA include: (a) Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind; (b) leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; (c) supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity; (d) enhancing international trade of LDCs and regional integration; e) addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development; and (f) mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation.

8. The DPoA recognizes the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as the focal point for the LDCs in the field of science, technology and innovation including as it related to capacity development and invites Member States and international organizations to provide voluntary financial and in-kind contributions on enhancing capacity and effectiveness.

### **JOINT ISA-UNTB LDC PROJECT**

9. It is in this context that the ISA and the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed countries (UN Technology Bank) have decided to partner with a view of conceptualizing, designing and implementing joint activities with a view to build and develop the capacities of LDCs in support of the sustainable development of blue emerging economic sectors. The ISA - UN Technology Bank partnership will particularly focus on two priority areas of the DPoA, namely: (i) investing in people in LDCs: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind, and (ii) leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the SDGs.

10. The main objective of the partnership between ISA and the UN Technology Bank would be to create the enabling conditions for LDCs to:

- (i) Better understand the rights recognized to them under UNCLOS which should support the sustainable development of blue emerging economic sectors aligned with their respective national socio-development priorities.
- (ii) Effectively engage in the global ocean governance processes including the activities of ISA through increased marine scientific, technical and legal capacities.
- (iii) Recognize and identify specific measures to facilitate the participation of women scientists from LDCs with deep-sea related skills in research and technology-oriented programmes and activities.

11. In light of this, one of the project activities is set to support deployment of **two qualified professionals from governments of LDCs** (Nepal and Tanzania) within the ISA Secretariat in order to carry out work related to innovation in deep-sea science and technology in order to strengthen national capacities in ocean science and matters related to emerging blue economies.

## **Annex: TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Strengthening national science-policy frameworks to support emerging blue economy sectors in LDCs**

1. One expected result of the project is to strengthen national science-policy framework to support emerging blue economy sectors in LDCs. Accordingly, the project is designed to provide 3-months secondments opportunities within the ISA Secretariat for two (2) national experts from LDCs and strongly encourages applications from women with a view to increase their meaningful participation in emerging deep-seabed related scientific and technical sectors.
2. The main objective of such secondments is two-fold. Firstly, to build on existing capacity-development initiatives to provide national experts with technical skills on deep-seabed related matters. Secondly, enable the ISA Secretariat to benefit from the contribution of such experts with a view of advancing specific scientific and regulatory tasks.
3. In relation to the potential areas of work for selected candidates, the Secretariat in collaboration with UNTBLDC identified the following requirements for a joint approach for the benefit of LDCs.
  - a. The need to support the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources of the ISA Secretariat (OEMMR):
    - i. In undertaking the assessment of environmental, oceanographic, and geological data compiled and hosted by ISA to improve its database “DeepData” and enhance the current scientific understanding of environmental, geological oceanographic and resource related aspects.
    - ii. In identifying gaps in the scientific informative value and significance in data needed for ISA to monitor the development of the resources and enhance the knowledge of environmental baseline of the Area to improve the global assessment of marine environmental, oceanographic and geological data.
  - b. The need to work with the ISA Secretariat and the data management group of the Legal and Technical Commission to analyse and make use of ISA’s environmental, oceanographic and geological database.
4. Foster cooperation with local universities (geoscience) with a view to increase awareness on the work of ISA and raise the informed scientific and political understanding for the Area and its natural resources. The aim is to identify scientific and technological innovation in marine activities which offer the opportunity for cross-fertilization with other sectors.

## Role and responsibilities

5. The national expert deployments are an opportunity for specialists from LDC member countries of ISA to be appointed on a special assignment within the ISA Secretariat for a 3-month period.
6. The experts will report directly to the Director/OEMMR and to Programme Management Officer (Mining Geology) for all matters relating to the programme of work assigned and deliverables.
7. In the field of geoscientific, technological, and environmental work, the successful selected Expert will work closely with the Director/OEMMR to achieve the following:
  - i. Support the assessment of data already owned by ISA and identifying gaps/needs.
  - ii. Work in close collaboration with the Data Management Group of the ISA.
  - iii. Foster the relationship between the government institutions and universities located in home country, and elsewhere to establish and increase partnership, scientific collaboration, and common awareness on the environmental, geological and technological work of ISA.
  - iv. Bridge the interests of ISA and home country authorities' interests in blue emerging economies with a view to defining common interests, joint challenges and efficient solutions, based on expertise and experience.

## Eligibility criteria

8. Deployment will be opened to government officials from Nepal and Tanzania, who meet the following requirements:
  - a) **Profile:** must be full-time employee of the releasing organization at the time of appointment and continue to receive their salary and benefits during the secondment from that organization. **Interns will not be considered.**
  - b) **Education:** should be equipped with relevant degree (Masters level or equivalent) in geoscience (geology, geochemistry, geophysics, marine geoscience will be considered as an added advantage) and/or environmental economy, policy studies with a focus on raw materials.
  - c) **Experience:** mid-career professionals (at least 5 years) with a proven track-record of experience and achievement in (a) resources assessment, resources management or (b) blue economy (c) Marine sciences and Geosciences.
  - d) **Language:** good knowledge of English for daily conversation, reading and writing.
  - e) **Health condition:** be in good mental and physical health.
  - f) **Age:** be between 32 and 50 years of age.

- g) **Nationality:** nationals from Nepal and Tanzania.

### **Selection process**

9. All applications shall be submitted to the ISA Secretariat (Capacity Development Unit: [capacity-development@isa.org.jm](mailto:capacity-development@isa.org.jm) with the subject: ISA-UNTBLDC Deployment) not later than **30 September 2023**.
10. The Secretariat will undertake the assessment of the eligibility of the applications received and will make recommendations on the eligible candidate. The Secretary-General will be responsible for making the final selection.
11. The successful candidates will be notified by the ISA Secretariat which will make, in close coordination with each candidate and relevant authorities, the necessary arrangements for the travels and participation.

### **Secondment terms and conditions**

12. The Secretariat will ONLY cover the cost incurred by travel (most direct and economic route), visa requirements and accommodation in Kingston. A stipend to cover the cost of living will be provided. The expert selected will not be eligible to any ISA Staff entitlements.
13. No salary replacement will be provided. The releasing organization shall continue to directly pay the Seconded/Expert's salary and benefits.
14. The releasing organization providing the Expert will provide assurance that a position will be available when the Expert returns from Kingston, Jamaica.
15. During the time of the deployment, the Expert will be subject to the ISA Staff rules and regulations for the time spent in the premises of ISA but will not be eligible to any benefits or entitlements attached to ISA Staff .

### **Reporting requirements**

16. Upon completion of his/her secondment, the Expert should provide an "End of deployment" report to the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General describing:
  - i. The achievements realised against the agreed plan of work.
  - ii. The lessons learnt.
  - iii. Specific capacities and skills strengthened.
  - iv. How the work undertaken will benefit the country of citizenship and ISA.
17. The Secretariat may request further reports during and after the secondment term.

### **Further information**

18. Should further information be required, please contact:
  - Dr. Ulrich Schwarz-Schampera, Programme Management Officer (Mining geologist) [uschampera@isa.org.jm](mailto:uschampera@isa.org.jm)
  - Ms. Margaret Koli, Programme Management Officer (Capacity Development) [mkoli@isa.org.jm](mailto:mkoli@isa.org.jm)