



**30th Session of the Council, Part II
International Seabed Authority (ISA)
Kingston, Jamaica - 14 July 2025**

Delivered by: Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), on behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Agenda Item 18 – Cooperation with other relevant international organizations

Thank you for the floor, Mr. Facilitator.

Distinguished Delegates, Members of the Council,

As an observer to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is pleased to contribute to the Council's deliberations on matters within its mandate, particularly those related to telecommunications submarine infrastructure.

In November 2024, ITU, in partnership with the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), launched the [International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience](#), which aims to enhance the resilience of the global submarine cable network by pooling technical expertise, best practices and collaboration across different stakeholders. The Advisory Body, co-chaired by H.E. Minister Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy (Federal Republic of Nigeria), and Prof. Sandra Maximiano, Chair of ANACOM's Board of Directors (Portugal), includes 42 members from both the public and private sectors. These include representatives from submarine cable operators, telecommunications companies, equipment suppliers as well as service providers, government agencies responsible for digital infrastructure and international organizations.

It specifically addresses issues such as improving cable maintenance, preventing damage from natural hazards and human activities, ensuring faster recovery times after disruptions, increase redundancy and promoting sustainable practices in the industry. In addition, it works to help strengthen cooperation between countries and companies to protect this vital infrastructure that underpins global communications and the digital economy.

Five intergovernmental organizations have a consultative role within the Body: FAO, IMO, UNIDIR, UNDOALOS and UNODC. An invitation was sent to the ISA last year, and a new one was recently sent to the ISA's new Secretary General.

On 26-27 February 2025, the International Submarine Cable Resilience Summit was held in Abuja, Nigeria, bringing together the global community to address critical technical issues related to



submarine cable resilience. It also marked the first in-person gathering of the Advisory Body members. The event provided a platform to deepen dialogue and generate actionable strategies to ensure the resilience of submarine cable systems worldwide.

The resulting [Summit Declaration](#) outlines collective commitments to safeguarding submarine cable systems and ensuring global connectivity.

During May 2025, three working groups were established by the Advisory Body to focus on key areas that are critical to strengthening global submarine cable resilience.

- **WG1: Timely Deployment & Repair**
Co-Facilitators:
 - Mr. Zhiguo Zhao, Chief Engineer of Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China (China)
 - Mr. Kevin Adams, Deputy Director for Telecoms Security and Resilience, Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (United Kingdom)
- **WG2: Risk Identification, Monitoring & Mitigation**
Co-Facilitators:
 - Ms. Nonkubela Thathakahle Jordan-Dyani, Director-General of Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (South Africa)
 - Mr. Andy Palmer-Felgate, Acting President of North American Submarine Cable Association-NASCA
- **WG3: Fostering Connectivity & Geographic Diversity**
Co-Facilitators:
 - Mr. Sangbu Kim, VP Digital of World Bank
 - Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary-General - Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

These working groups, with a total of more than 160 expert members nominated by governments, industry, academia, and international organizations, represent a diverse cross-section of global stakeholders. Each working group is co-led by two appointed facilitators and is tasked with producing an action-oriented report or other deliverables by early 2026. These reports will include concrete recommendations and best practices aimed at enhancing the resilience of submarine cable infrastructure worldwide.



Given the ISA's mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities, and the role it may play to improve the protection of undersea infrastructure, the ITU wishes to highlight this matter and is willing to engage further with the ISA to explore potential areas of collaboration.

Thank you very much, Mr. Facilitator.