



**Announcement by
The Metals Company**

Kingston, Jamaica

28 March 2025

STATEMENT

by

Madam Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority,
Leticia Carvalho

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Distinguished Delegates,

It is my duty as Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority to keep the members of the Council informed of any questions which may be of interest to the Council.

In that context, I refer to the announcement made yesterday by The Metals Company that its subsidiary, TMC USA, has initiated the process of applying for commercial recovery permits under the US Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act of 1980.

While this announcement does not, in any way, constitute an official notification, I must express my deep concern.

It is imperative to reaffirm the Authority's exclusive mandate. The Authority remains the sole organization through which States Parties shall, in accordance with Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly in administering its resources.

The Area and its resources are proclaimed the Common Heritage of Humankind under the Convention, which serves as the Constitution for the Oceans. All exploration and exploitation activities in the Area must be carried out under the Authority's control.

This remains the only universally recognized legitimate framework.

Any unilateral action would constitute a violation of international law and directly undermine the fundamental principles of multilateralism, the peaceful use of the oceans and the collective governance framework established under UNCLOS.

For over three decades, the absence of claims under any regime outside Part XI has demonstrated the international community's strong confidence—including that of States not party to the Convention—in the system developed through the Authority.

The principle of the Common Heritage of Humankind, as applied to the Area, is a cornerstone of general international law and a fundamental pillar of ocean governance, widely upheld by the international community.

Our collective commitment to the rule of law and multilateral cooperation is essential to safeguarding this principle.

I remain firmly dedicated to the Authority's mandate, ensuring that activities in the Area are conducted for the benefit of all humankind.

I take note, with appreciation, of the significant efforts of all Council members during this session and their continued commitment to advancing negotiations of the Draft Exploitation Regulations efficiently and in good faith.

I reaffirm the Secretariat's full commitment to supporting the Authority's Member States in the critical steps ahead.

The Secretariat stands ready to assist the Council in its intention to continue the elaboration of rules, regulations and procedures relating to exploitation, in accordance with the Convention and the 1994 Agreement, and as per its decision adopted by consensus on 21 July 2023 ([ISBA/28/C/24](#)).

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your attention.