



Thirtieth session of the Assembly - Part II

International Seabed Authority

Kingston, Jamaica

21 July 2025

STATEMENT

by

Madam Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority,

Leticia Carvalho

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the thirtieth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, and it is an honour to do so for the first time as the elected Secretary-General.

And, as always, to extend a special thanks to our host country, beautiful Jamaica, which has played an integral role in fostering the spirit of international dialogue and multilateral engagement that defines this institution.

I am so heartened to see such strong representation from across our membership. Your presence is a clear reflection of the continued importance that States place on the ISA's mandate, especially at this critical juncture in our collective journey.

We come together following the conclusion of the Council's session today, after two intense weeks, and I would like to take a moment to thank all delegations for their sustained commitment to the Authority's work and values and the hard work undertaken.

I would like to congratulate the Council on reaching an important milestone: the completion of the second reading of the consolidated text of the exploitation regulations.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the entire Secretariat team, whose tireless efforts — often behind the scenes — made this Council session possible. From documentation to coordination, logistics to technical support, security, your dedication was instrumental in creating a productive and constructive environment for all.

I also welcome the Council's adoption of the decision marking the beginning of the operationalization of the Economic Planning Commission. A very important milestone from this meeting.

The indicative programme of work before the Assembly reflects the scope and ambition of this session.

You will consider 13 requests for observer status, the election of three members of the Finance Committee; as well as consideration of a proposed decision on the periodic review of the international regime of the Area under Article 154 of the Convention, as recommended by the Council.

I would like to draw your attention to this particular agenda item at this particular juncture.

It is time to take stock of how far we have come, and to look ahead to how the Authority — and I, as Secretary-General — can help you deliver on the truly remarkable mandate of this organization.

Importantly, we will also take the time to commemorate thirty years since the establishment of the International Seabed Authority. As so well captured by the Special Envoy for the Ocean to the President of France, there is deep meaning and history behind this moment. This milestone is not only a reflection of our institutional legacy, but a moment to reaffirm our shared duty to steward the Area for the benefit of all humankind.

During this Assembly, I will present my annual report. The report offers a high-level overview of progress made in 2025, including updates on the Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science — a very important vessel for our collective work as an international community — advancement in financial sustainability and resource mobilization efforts, reforms to strengthen the Secretariat, and actions taken to enhance transparency, accountability and stakeholder engagement.

Distinguished delegates,

As we begin this session, let us not lose sight of what makes progress possible: our shared commitment to multilateralism, the rule of law, and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Authority stands as a living example of what international cooperation can achieve, grounded in legal certainty, guided by science, and entrusted with managing the deep seabed for the common heritage of humankind. In an era of geopolitical uncertainty, we must remain vigilant against attempts at unilateral action in the Area. Only by working together—through dialogue, consensus, institutional trust, and broader participation, can we uphold the long-term stewardship of the deep ocean for present and future generations.

I thank you once again for your continued trust, commitment, and dedication. I really look forward to a fruitful and constructive week of deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. President.