



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Ensuring the sustainable management and stewardship of the deep seabed and its resources for the benefit of all humanity”

Co-Sponsored by: Cook Islands, Ghana, Jamaica, Korea, Malta, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, IFREMER

Virtual Event

13 July 2021

OPENING STATEMENT

By H.E. Michael W. Lodge,
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

.....

Wherever you are in the world, welcome to this side-event on the sustainable management and stewardship of the deep seabed and its resources for the benefit of all humanity.

We are delighted to be organizing this side-event in the margins of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. As a fundamental part of the global governance architecture, ISA is fully committed to achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Our mandate is given to us by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the subsequent 1994 Agreement, and it involves five core responsibilities.

First, we must ensure that activities in the deep seabed are carried out for the benefit of all humanity.

Second, we must ensure the effective protection of the marine environment.

Third, we must promote marine scientific research in the deep seabed.

Fourth, we must ensure effective participation of developing States in the activities carried out in the deep seabed.

And fifth, we must ensure that the benefits derived from the deep seabed are shared equitably for the benefit of humanity.

The question we must ask is, how does the implementation of these responsibilities contribute to the SDGs? And what can we do to contribute more?

To help answer these questions I have commissioned an independent report on the contribution of ISA to the SDGs. The report will be issued later this year, but you already saw a preview in the video package. One of the key takeaways is that ISA's work already contributes to advancing 11 out of the 17 SDGs.

Much more can be done, and this week's meetings of the HLPF provide a critical opportunity to discuss what I personally consider a fundamental priority of ISA.

Over the next two hours we are going to have the privilege to hear from a series of eminent speakers, including leaders in international organizations and high level government representatives, and to share their impressions of the way in which the Authority can contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.
