



High-level webinar to present ISA's draft Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Kingston, Jamaica

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OPENING REMARKS

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Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Wherever you are in the world, welcome to this webinar to present the draft ISA Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The draft Action Plan, which has been identified as one of the priority decisions for the Assembly to adopt before the end of 2020, reflects the ongoing support of the Authority towards the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

Our commitment to the Decade comes directly from the specific and unique mandate given to the Authority by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as it relates to marine scientific research in the Area.

First, UNCLOS requires the Authority to promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of humankind.

Second, it also requires the Authority to coordinate and disseminate the results of such research.

Third, it is also the responsibility of the Authority to ensuring that capacity-building programmes are developed to strengthen the research capabilities of developing States and technologically less developed States.

These three pillars of our work are reflected in the draft Action Plan. Of course, the Action Plan has also been developed in line with the objectives identified for the UN Decade and I also wish to thank our sister organization, IOC-UNESCO, for their inputs on the draft.

At the core of the Action Plan, lie six strategic research priorities for which a list of outputs has been identified. Together, these six priorities reflect the importance given by the Authority and its members to marine science.

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, high level government representatives and leading scientists, to give their impressions of the way in which the Authority can contribute to achieving the objectives of the Decade.
