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## **Interactive Dialogue 6**

### **Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology**

**Lisbon, Portugal**

**30 June 2022**

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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I acknowledge with appreciation the numerous references in the concept paper for this interactive dialogue to the work of the International Seabed Authority.

These include references to the ISA Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and the programmatic approach to capacity development endorsed by the Assembly of ISA.

These two strategic frameworks are critical for scaling up collective action to enhance scientific knowledge of the ocean in compliance with the Authority's mandate under UNCLOS.

The knowledge generated through activities in the Area directly informs the work of ISA particularly as it relates to the development of rules and regulations, based on the best available science. This is a prerequisite to sustainable development of seabed minerals for the benefit of humanity and a practical example of the correct application of the precautionary approach.

A good example of collective action is the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative launched this week in partnership with the European Commission and several other governments and research entities.

ISA's mandate means that it is uniquely placed to organize the transfer of technology and build the capacity of developing States and technologically less advanced States. Since 1994, more than 1,000 individuals have benefited from the opportunities provided through ISA.

We share the urgency of the call to prioritize the role of women in scientific research. We are proud of our firm commitment to advance women's empowerment and leadership in marine scientific research.

At the first Ocean Conference, the Authority was the only organization to register a voluntary commitment in that regard. We have made much progress. In our side event this morning, we presented an important report identifying critical barriers to the participation of women from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in deep-sea related research disciplines.

We look forward to more partners joining with us in these initiatives and welcome the development of new partnerships.

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