



World Hydrography Day and the 100th Anniversary of the International Hydrographic Organization

Kingston, Jamaica (Virtual)

21 June 2021

Statement

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

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Excellencies,

Greetings from Jamaica on this World Hydrography Day 2021.

Many congratulations also to the International Hydrographic Organization on achieving its one hundredth anniversary.

Hydrography and the measurement of the depth and shape of the seafloor were recognized since the London Conference of 1919 as fundamental to maritime safety and navigation. Increasingly, it is recognized as fundamental to all aspects of the sustainable use of the world's seas and oceans. Advances in physical science and marine technology have only increased the value of hydrography to sustainable management of the ocean.

On behalf of the International Seabed Authority, I had the honour to participate in the first Assembly of IHO in 2017 and to sign an agreement of cooperation between ISA and IHO.

Since then, our cooperation has grown stronger with each passing year. This is not surprising, as both IHO and ISA have a shared mandate and shared commitment to increase scientific understanding of the ocean and to make ocean data publicly available.

Both organizations also share a commitment to the goal of fully mapping the ocean by 2030. Thanks to the work carried out by IHO and in particular its approach to open and inclusive cooperation with other organizations and with industry, the portion of the seafloor that has been mapped has already increased from 15 per cent in 2017 to 20 per cent in 2020.

The Authority is pleased to contribute to these efforts. High resolution bathymetric data is essential to understand the geology of the seafloor. Since 2018, we have been working closely with IHO and our 22 deep sea exploration contractors to develop the necessary protocols to standardize and exchange high resolution bathymetric data collected by contractors with IHO as a contribution towards the Seabed 2030 project. Contractors

recognize the importance of this initiative and have committed to work closely with ISA to support the action of IHO in advancing the global mapping of the international seabed area. I am pleased to inform you that recently the first datasets under this programme were transferred to IHO.

We look forward to further developing this partnership and supporting the work of IHO as well as developing further cooperative programmes, particularly in the field of marine technology.

Congratulation to IHO and all the best for the next 100 years!
