

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC STATEMENT

Argentina will like to express its strong support for the approval by ISA's Assembly of the ISA'S Draft Action Plan in Support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Historically, Argentina attaches great importance to all related oceans and law of the sea issues. For this reason, strategic initiatives to promote marine scientific research and the protection of the marine environment constitute a State policy for our country.

National efforts in ocean matters cannot be done in isolation, and international forums such as the International Seabed Authority provide us with the opportunity to exchange knowledge and perspectives and coordinated efforts to meet the objectives established at the international level and, ultimately, ensure that the sustainable development of our societies also reaches all maritime areas.

Our country wishes to take this opportunity to reaffirm its strongest commitment to comply with the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement of the implementation of Part XI of the Convention, instruments that provide the fundamental legal framework for the development of activities in the Area.

-Argentina is proud to have been invited by the Secretary General, to act as **Champion of the Authority's Action Plan** in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development. In this sense, our country is committed to contribute and work together with the Authority to promote the objectives of the Decade, especially those related to the promotion of marine scientific research in the Area, equitable access to its results, and the participation of developing States in the activities carried out there, always respecting the principle of common heritage of humankind of its resources and the protection of the marine environment.

We understand that the implementation plan of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, starting next year January 1st, 2021 will be a central opportunity, both at the national and international level, to promote the oceanic issues of all kinds.

Argentina understands that by improving current ocean models, it would be possible to acquire new information that allows a greater understanding pressures of past situations, as well as, predict more accurately geological, physical, social, cultural, and biological events still unknown. Thus, the outcome of the Decade will only be achieved if policy makers, innovators and society have the tools at their disposal to transform data and information into solutions.

Argentina shares and supports the idea promoted by the IOC to create an oceanic community through a digital data system, capable of fully representing the socio-ecological system of the ocean.

Another fundamental issue that concerns us today is the strengthening of a Culture oriented to the oceans. It agrees with the importance of the increase in the dissemination of knowledge among the scientific community, governments, companies, the industrial sector and civil society as a way to promote growth and create opportunities for social development in regions linked to the oceans.

We know that the Decade foresees the need for resource mobilization mechanisms, and can make a clearer contribution to technical cooperation and the promotion of transfer technology so that, all Member States and in particular developing countries, without distinctions, can develop actions within the framework of the Decade.

For the aforementioned reasons Argentina will not just support the approval of this Action Plan but also will participate with conviction in these global efforts trying to help that the UN Decade legacy will be a very meaningful one.

