

## **Comments submitted by Argentina**

Regarding the circulated draft for ISA's Capacity Development Strategy, Argentina fully supports ISA's efforts to promote and encourage the participation of developing States in activities in the Area, as well as technology transfer to developing countries. In particular, we agree that capacity development is a core component of ISA's Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, from which Argentina is Champion.

It should also be noted that two individuals from Argentina have recently participated in capacity-building programmes, more specifically in the Contractors' Training Programme. Additionally, one representative from Argentina's Government participated in the workshop on capacity development that was held in Kingston, Jamaica, in February 2020. We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the need for capacity development programmes and activities to be targeted at the needs of developing States as identified by them (key result area 1). In order to achieve that goal, Argentina has contributed by participating in the survey carried out in June 2020 and in the questionnaire circulated within ISA-NAFOP-CD in May 2021.

Another key goal is to promote the participation of women from developing countries in deep-sea research and science as well as in the development of the law of the sea related to the Area (key result area 4). Argentina is deeply committed to this goal and, for that reason, our country has participated in several initiatives and seminars organized by ISA on this regard.

Regarding key result area 5, we fully support the need to develop activities focusing on raising awareness regarding ISA's mandate and the legal regime for the Area.

Finally, we've noticed that paragraphs 33 and 34 include references to the concept of "blue economy". It should be noted that there's not an internationally agreed definition for that concept, it is suggested its replacement by "sustainable and inclusive ocean economy" which is language agreed at the multilateral level (e.g.: 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture).