

Costa Rica proposals for document “International Seabed Authority: Capacity Development Strategy 2022-2030”

Informal Working Group – Inspections, Compliance and Enforcement

1. Name of Delegation making the proposal: Republic of Costa Rica

2. Proposed amendments to the document in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word.

1. Introduction. Paragraph 1 and 2.

“...Such benefits include specific programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities of developing States and technologically less developed States as well as programmes designed to promote the effective participation of developing States in the framework of the International Seabed Authority, including their active participation in the meetings, discussions, negotiations and decision making processes of all the bodies of the Authority, as appropriate, as well as in the activities in the Area, in accordance with UNCLOS and implementing Agreement on Part XI, and to strengthen developing countries capacities facilitate their eventual compliance with environmental obligations including for the elaboration of Environmental Impact Assessments.

.... Members of the Authority have identified that one of the key challenges for the Authority lies in the development of mechanisms, including capacity-building programmes, that ensure the fully integrated participation of developing States in activities in the Area at all levels as well as in the meetings and processes of the different bodies of the Authority.

2. IV Key result areas

1.1 Facilitating the identification and regular review of needs and priorities of developing States, members of the Authority.

11. “A review of the actual needs of developing States, members of the Authority shall be undertaken at least every threefive years to ensure accuracy and relevance of the work undertaken.”

3. IV. Key results areas

1.2 Facilitating the identification and regular review of needs and priorities of developing States, members of the Authority.

12. Attention will also be given to develop projects, ~~and~~ activities and capacity building programs that recognize the different levels of intervention (individual, institutional, national) required and the difference in priority needs identified, to ensure effective

participation of developing States in the framework of the International Seabed Authority, including their active participation in the meetings, discussions, negotiations and decision making processes of all the bodies of the Authority, as appropriate , as well as in the activities in the Area, in accordance with UNCLOS and implementing Agreement on Part XI, and strengthen capacities for facilitating their eventual compliance with environmental obligations including for the elaboration of Environmental Impact Assessments.. For instance, once completed the negotiations for the regulations on exploitation of mineral resources of the area, specific consideration will be given to the needs identified by developing States sponsoring activities in the Area or to those which intend to sponsor future activities in the Area. Due consideration will also be given to the specific needs identified by countries through the 2020 survey and to address the unique challenges faced by Least developing countries (LDCs), Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small island developing States (SIDS), including capacity building, training, and transfer of technology needed to facilitate the compliance with the environmental obligations. This differentiated capacity development strategy will result in activities that are more meaningful for and better targeted at individual member States.

4. IV. Key results areas

1.2 Facilitating the identification and regular review of needs and priorities of developing States, members of the Authority.

15. Accordingly, where ~~required appropriate and feasible~~, the Secretariat will endeavour to design and implement capacity development activities that address the needs identified by developing States, members of the Authority, as well any other resources for identification of the needs of developing states to ensure its effective participation in one or more of the main categories of the Authority's mandate within the four main mandate categories of the Authority (see para.14 above).

5. IV Key Results areas.

2.1 Fostering strategic partnerships to enhance the impact of capacity development programmes and initiatives.

16. Success in implementing the programmatic approach for capacity development lies in the ability to foster strategic and transformative partnerships. This will be particularly relevant in relation to articles 143 and 273 of the Convention and the requirements for States Parties to cooperate with competent international organizations and the Authority to encourage and facilitate the transfer to developing States, their nationals, and the Enterprise, of skills and marine technology with regard ~~to ensure effective participation of developing States in the framework of the International Seabed Authority, including their active participation in the meetings, discussions, negotiations and decision making processes of all the bodies of the Authority, as appropriate , as well as in the activities in the Area, in accordance with UNCLOS and implementing Agreement on Part XI, and strengthen developing countries' capacities facilitate their eventual compliance with environmental obligations including for the elaboration of Environmental Impact Assessments.~~activities in the Area.

6. IV Key Results areas.

2.1 Fostering strategic partnerships to enhance the impact of capacity development programmes and initiatives.

17. Three complementary levels of actions will be taken. First, the Secretariat will seek to leverage existing memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements with other competent intergovernmental and regional organizations to develop joint capacity development projects and activities to ensure effective participation of member states in the activities and procedures of the Authority and strengthening the capacities of developing states and technologically less develop states. Second, the Authority will continue to identify additional organizations with which such cooperation could be established such as NGO's, academic institutions, among others related to the activities of the Authority. Third, the Authority is also committed to deepen its partnerships with UN entities, other intergovernmental organizations and relevant sub-regional and regional organizations to jointly implement capacity development activities targeted at their respective members. In any case, the objective of the strategic partnerships is to leverage the respective comparative advantages of the entities involved while creating synergies and avoiding duplication in mandates and programmes. Particular attention will be given to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) in line with the 2030 Agenda.

7. IV Key Results areas.

3.1 Developing human resources to ensure ownership of expertise and knowledge.

26... Different approaches will be considered but emphasis will be placed on developing dedicated curricula for higher education programmes and executive courses on deep-sea related issues in partnership with members and relevant national and regional institutions, NGO's, academic institutions, among others.

27. The Secretariat will continue to place emphasis on the successful and meaningful implementation of the Contractors' Training Programme,²⁸ the Internship Programme²⁹ and the Junior Professional Officer Programme³⁰ with a view to ensure, ~~where possible~~, equal participation for qualified women and men from developing States particularly from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Secretariat will also strengthen its efforts to secure and maintain support for the recognition of excellence of young researchers through the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research.

8. IV Key results. 3.1 Facilitating access to physical and digital infrastructures

29. Access to deep-sea research and observation infrastructures presents a significant challenge for many members of the Authority, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, in part due to the costs of acquisition, operation and maintenance. The Authority is not in a position to finance large physical infrastructure (research vessels, laboratories, building, machinery etc.). Nevertheless, consideration ~~will~~ be given to the development of dedicated programmes, projects and activities that will enhance access to such infrastructure at the regional level through external sponsorship, in-kind donations and partnerships with interested member States, NGO's, contractors, research institutions and development partners, as well as procuring access to

contractor's infrastructure for research and observation purposes through the terms and conditions of the contracts-