



Introducing ISA's Marine Scientific Research Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



ISA High-Level webinar

8:00-10:30AM (Kingston Time)

Agenda

17.11.2020

The high-level webinar will take place on the margins of the work of the 26th session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) which is progressing its work through silence procedure. The meeting will bring together a select and diverse group of senior representatives from members of ISA, UN agencies and other international and regional organizations. The main objective is to present the key components of the draft Action Plan ([draft ISA MSR Action Plan](#)) by highlighting how it represents the objectives identified for the UN Decade and the six strategic research priorities around which ISA will mobilize its actions in a complementary and synergistic manner.

The discussion will be informed by the ISA's [Strategic Plan](#) and [High-Level Action Plan](#) for 2019-2023, the [2020 Annual Report of the Secretary-General](#) of ISA, the [2020 report of the Secretary-General of ISA towards the implementation of a programmatic approach for capacity development](#) and the [second version of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade](#) to be submitted for presentation to UN Member States at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

Background

Marine scientific research plays a critical role in the responsible management of the oceans and their resources. It is also vital to scientific advancement and to the environmentally sustainable and commercially viable conduct of activities in the Area.

Pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention (1994 Agreement), ISA is required to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research (MSR) in the Area and shall coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis when available. As part of its responsibilities, ISA also has the duty to encourage appropriate programmes to be designed and implemented for the benefit of developing States and technologically less developed States, with a view to strengthening their research capabilities, training their personnel in the techniques and applications of research and fostering the employment of their qualified personnel in research in the Area.

Several initiatives are being undertaken by ISA to discharge effectively its responsibilities, including in partnership with IOC-UNESCO. All these initiatives are based on the mandate given to ISA pursuant to UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement as well as the ISA's Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan for 2019-2023.

It is on the basis of this mandate and mission assigned to it that ISA has developed a draft Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development which would be considered by the ISA Assembly for adoption in December 2020.

Tentative Programme

8:00 -8 :15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Michael W. Lodge, ISA Secretary-General • H.E Denys Wibeaux, Permanent Representative of France to ISA and President of the 26th session of the ISA Assembly
8:15-8:35	<p>Panel 1: Importance of marine science for the sustainable development of the ocean and its resources and the effective implementation of international law</p> <p><i>Marine science and marine scientific research play a critical role for the sustainable development of the ocean and its resources particularly in the context of Part XI of UNCLOS.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Miguel de Serpa Soares, UN Legal Counsel • H.E Luis Del Solar Dorrego, Permanent Representative of Argentina to ISA • Mr Ariel Troisi, Chair, IOC-UNESCO • H.E Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO
8:40-09:10	<p>Panel 2: Advancing scientific knowledge of the deep-sea for the sustainable development of the ocean resources including understanding biodiversity and ecosystems functions</p> <p><i>Increased scientific research and better understanding of biodiversity of ecosystems functions are prerequisites to achieving the sustainable development of deep-sea resources and ensuring effective protection of the marine environment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Minister Seong-Hyeok Moon, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea • Mrs Veronika Veits, Director, DG MARE, European Union • Professor Shirayama, JAMSTEC • Dr Gordon Paterson, ISA Legal & Technical Commission
09:10-9:30	<p>Panel 3: Strengthening deep-sea scientific capacity of developing States, including transfer of technology</p> <p><i>Creating the enabling conditions to develop capacity in developing States and facilitate transfer of technology will be key to ensure that all can benefit from the sustainable development of the Ocean and its resources.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Fekita 'Utoikamanu, USG UN-OHRLLS • Ms Marte Ziolkowski, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway • Mr Liu Feng, Chair, Secretary-General COMRA and Chair of ISA-China Joint Training and Research Centre
9:30-10:15	<p>Panel 4: Fostering strategic partnerships</p> <p><i>Advancing knowledge and understanding of the deep-sea and its ecosystems requires collective action and establishment of strategic partnerships to share information, facilitate technology development and create synergies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to ISA • Mr Sturla Henriksen, Special Advisor, UN Global Compact • Video DeepData • Dr. Mathias Jonas, Secretary-General, IHO • Mrs Claire Jolly, Head of Unit, Innovation Policies for Space and the Ocean, STI Ocean Economy Group, OECD • Mr Ward Appeltans, Programme Manager OBIS/IOC-UNESCO
10:15-10:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Liu Zhenmin, USG UNDESA • H.E Michael W. Lodge, ISA Secretary-General