

ISBA/27/A/2/Add.1

Annex II: Status of implementation by the Secretariat of the relevant high-level actions and associated outputs for the reporting period 2021-2022

No. High-level action	Outputs for 2021-2022			
	Description	Responsibility of the Secretariat	Status	Comments
Strategic direction 1: realize the role of the Authority in a global context				
1.1.1 Adjust its programmes and initiatives to contribute effectively to the achievement of goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14	Report on programmes and initiatives contributing to the achievement of relevant goals and targets of Agenda 2030	Organ responsible	On going	Annual reporting is made by the Secretary-General in the report presented to the Assembly under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2).
1.2.1 Establish partnerships to foster cooperation with the United Nations, including through the UN-Oceans coordination mechanism, on matters of mutual interest, and provide relevant input and guidance	(a) Report on the contribution of the Authority to the work of the United Nations on matters of mutual interest	Associated organ	On going	Annual reporting is made by the Secretary-General in the report presented to the Assembly under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2), the report on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Authority in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (ISBA/26/A/25 ; ISBA/27/A/4) as well as through the different inputs provided to the various reports prepared by the UN Secretary-General and presented to the

				meeting of the States Parties to UNCLOS, ICP and for the UN Resolution on the law of the sea.
	(c) Explore opportunities for establishing a memorandum of understanding or any other relevant agreement to foster cooperation between the Authority and the United Nations	Associated organ	On going	At Part I of the 27 th session, the Council encouraged the secretariat to enter into discussions with the International Labour Organization (ILO) with a view to concluding a cooperation agreement between ISA and ILO to keep under review emerging issues concerning occupational health and safety for personnel involved in exploitation in the Area (ISBA/27/C/21). In the light of the request by the Council, the secretariat made initial contact with the ILO to explore this possibility.
1.2.2 Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the planning and implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, in particular on matters relating to the conduct of marine scientific activities in the Area	Make an effective contribution to the planning of activities during the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and ensure that appropriate attention is given to the need to promote international cooperation for marine scientific research in the Area	Associated organ	On going	ISA is actively contributing to the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Building on the relevant strategic directions, high-level actions and outputs identified in the Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan for the Authority for 2019-2023, the Assembly has adopted the Action Plan in support of the UN Decade at its 26 th Session (ISBA/26/A/17). Further information can be found in the progress report provided to the Assembly (ISBA/26/A/25 ; ISBA/27/A/4).

1.2.3 Establish partnerships to foster cooperation, consistent with the Convention and international law, with relevant international and regional organizations on matters of mutual interest, and provide relevant input and guidance	(i) Report on the contribution of the Authority to the work of relevant international and regional organizations	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Annual reporting is made by the Secretary-General in the report presented to the Assembly under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2).
	(iii) Explore opportunities for memorandums of understanding or other cooperative arrangements to foster cooperation between the Authority and international and regional organizations	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(1) A MoU between the Secretariat of ISA and the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association has been signed in February 2022. (2) A MoU between ISA and the African Union will be presented to the Council for approval at part II of the 27 th session (ISBA/27/C/29) (3) The Council encouraged the secretariat to enter discussions with the International Labour Organization (ILO) with a view to concluding a cooperation agreement between the Authority and ILO to keep under review emerging issues concerning occupational health and safety for personnel involved in exploitation in the Area (ISBA/27/C/21).
1.2.4 Consider problems of a general nature arising in relation to activities in the Area in a manner consistent with the Convention and international law and relevant to the role of the Authority	Provide advice and guidance on issues relevant to the mandate of the Authority and the implementation of relevant legal instruments	Associated organ	Ongoing	Provide assistance to the LTC Provide assistance to the LTC in implementing the request of the Council (ISBA/26/C/57) to review the Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in

				the Area (ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1 and Corr. 1).
1.2.5 Promote and raise awareness of the role and specific mandate of the Authority for the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources and marine biodiversity	(i) Participate and contribute to the discussions at the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction convened pursuant to resolution 72/249 of the United Nations General Assembly, with a view to raising awareness of the mandate and role of the Authority	Organ responsible	Ongoing	In the course of the past four meetings of the IGC, ISA has raised awareness of its mandate and work and disseminated related information through statements, side events and suggestions. As of today, a total of 9 statements were delivered, and 5 side events were held (ISBA/27/A/2).
	(ii) Report on the contribution of the Authority to the discussions at the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and highlight elements of particular interest or of potential concern in relation to the existing legal regime for the Area and the mandate of the Authority	Associated organ	Ongoing	(see ISBA/25/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/27/A/2 ; and dedicated page on ISA website).
	(iii) Increase general awareness and understanding of the legal regime through which the	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Since 2021, a new webinar series (Deep DiplomaSea) has been launched for personnel of permanent missions and

	Authority contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources and their associated marine biodiversity			senior representatives of the UN systems with a view to raise general awareness on the role and mandate of ISA (ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2.)
1.4.1 Actively engage with members to achieve the effective and uniform implementation of relevant legal instruments through State practice	(ii) Promote and encourage the ratification of or accession to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority	Associated organ	Ongoing	Correspondence was sent by the Secretary-General on 11 February 2022 to the to encourage ISA Members to ratify or accede to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority. No additional ratification or accession has been registered during the reporting period (ISBA/27/A/2).
	(iii) Report on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters	Associated organ	Ongoing	A Note Verbale was circulated on 9 February 2022 to invite submission of national legislation. A report will be presented to the Council during the second part of the 27 th session (ISBA/27/C/26).
1.4.2 Identify specific challenges faced by developing States and recommend ways and means to address them	(i) Report on the specific challenges faced by developing States in implementing relevant international legal instruments governing activities in the Area	Associated organ	Ongoing	Report of the Secretary-General the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development (ISBA/26/A/7). Further elements can be found in the report of the Secretary-General under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2).
	(ii) Recommend specific measures to address specific challenges that have been identified	Associated organ	Ongoing	See above.

Strategic direction 2: strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area				
2.1.1 Promote the development of rules, regulations and procedures covering all phases of deep-sea mining activities	(i) Facilitate the review of inputs from the Council and comments from stakeholders on the draft regulations on exploitation	Associated organ	Ongoing	In response to the Council's request in its decision ISBA/26/C/57 , the Secretariat prepared a regulation-by-regulation collation of textual proposals presented by member States, observers and stakeholders that had been received by 15 October 2019 for the meetings of the Council in March 2022.
	(ii) Facilitate consultation on and a review of available options to be taken into consideration for deciding on the financial model	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The secretariat organized the fourth meeting of the open-ended informal working group (OEWG) on the financial terms in March 2022. The outcomes of the OEWG were reported to the Council (ISBA/27/C/21).
	(iii) Review a possible operating framework for the review, development and integration of standards and guidelines	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The Secretariat assisted the LTC in its work on phase 1 draft standards and guidelines associated with the draft exploitation regulations. It also processed into the six languages of the Authority the official documents corresponding to phase 1 draft standards and guidelines (ISBA/27/C/3 to ISBA/27/C/12).
	(iv) Submit revised draft regulations on exploitation for consideration by the Council	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The secretariat prepared a Note for the Council containing recommendations made by the LTC relating to draft regulation 30 and draft annex VI to the draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (ISBA/26/C/17). At its March 2022

				meeting, the Council agreed to consider draft annex VI, containing the health and safety plan and the maritime security plan (see ISBA/26/C/17, annex), as part of the draft regulations (ISBA/25/C/WP.1). See ISBA/27/C/21 .
2.1.2 Monitor and keep under review rules, regulations and procedures to ensure that they are consistent with the policies, objectives, criteria, principles and provisions set out in the Convention and the 1994 Agreement	(ii) Recommend measures to promote the compliance of contractors in future	Associated organ	Ongoing	During the reporting period, the Secretary-General has communicated in writing the various issues identified during the LTC's review of the annual reports of contractors to the relevant contractors and has held meetings with a number of contractors (ISBA/27/C/27 , para.21).
2.1.3 Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved, in particular among the Authority, sponsoring States and flag States	Conduct a study on the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved	Coordinating organ	Achieved	A matrix on the role of sponsoring States will be issued for the Council's consideration at its July 2022 meeting.
Strategic direction 3: protect the marine environment				
3.1.3 Keep under review the regulatory framework for the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area	Review annual reports submitted by contractors	Associated organ	Ongoing	The secretariat conducted a preliminary evaluation of all 30 annual reports submitted by contractors, with a view to assisting the LTC to review those reports at part II of the 27 th session.
3.2.1 Develop regional environmental assessments and management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking place	(i) Implementation of the Authority's strategy for the development of regional environmental management plans	Associated organ	Ongoing	In 2021, following a comprehensive review of the implementation of the CCZ environmental management plan, with assistance from the Secretariat, the LTC recommended further actions to advance the implementation of the plan. These

				<p>included the establishment of four additional APEIs to enhance the effectiveness of the overall network (ISBA/C/26/43). The Council endorsed this recommendation in December 2021 (ISBA/26/C/58).</p> <p>In April 2022, the LTC decided to release the draft REMP for the Mid-Atlantic Ridge for stakeholder consultation, and will consider the comments in July 2022.</p> <p>The secretariat, in discussion with the LTC and host organizations, has also started preparation for additional expert workshops for the Northwest Pacific and Indian oceans.</p>
	(ii) Develop and implement a standardized approach for the design and development of regional environmental management plans	Organ responsible	In progress	<p>Building on the strategy endorsed by the Council at its 25th session (ISBA/25/C/13), significant progress was made towards a standardized approach for the development of REMPs, as requested by the Council. The LTC is currently formulating recommendations for a standardized approach, including a template with indicative elements for REMPs.</p>
	(iii) Report on progress with the implementation of the Authority's programme for regional environmental management plans	Organ responsible	In progress	<p>Progress are reflected in the report of the Chair of the LTC, submitted to the Council as well as Annual Report of the</p>

				Secretary-General to the Assembly ISBA/27/A/2).
3.2.2 Facilitate the implementation, in cooperation with contractors, sponsoring States and other relevant stakeholders, of regional environmental management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking or will take place	No output against this action	Coordinating organ (in partnership with LTC)	Ongoing	Dialogue with contractors and scientific organizations is being pursued on taxonomic standardization, as a priority action under the CCZ-EMP.
3.2.3 Keep under review the implementation of the regional environmental management plans, including with regard to the challenges and constraints identified therein, for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking or will take place	(iii) Review the effectiveness of existing areas of particular environmental interest and consider the designation of additional areas	Coordinating organ	In progress	The secretariat assisted the LTC in its review of the implementation of the environmental management plan for the CCZ, including the effectiveness of the APEI network, building on the results from the Friday Harbor workshop held in October 2019.
3.3.1 Facilitate public access to non-confidential information	(i) Develop procedures and mechanisms to facilitate access to non-confidential environmental information	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The secretariat compiled all the data submitted by contractors into ISA database (“DeepData”).
	(ii) Ensure the availability of and access to non-confidential environmental information through the Authority’s database	Organ responsible	Achieved	ISA database (“DeepData”) launched during the 25 th session of the Assembly (ISBA/25/A/17 , para.40). The secretariat co-organized a workshop on “DeepData: Focusing on data management strategy” in September 2020 for stakeholder information. The report on the outcome of the workshop is currently under review with the co-Chairs and will be made publicly available on ISA website. All

				environmental data are accessible by the general public through DeepData.
3.3.2 Encourage participation by stakeholders in the development and review of the regulatory framework adopted for the protection of the marine environment	(i) Develop procedures and mechanisms to facilitate the consultation of stakeholders	Organ responsible	In progress	Communications and Stakeholder Engagement strategy under development. The Secretariat is willing to ensure that inputs and views from all relevant stakeholders could be collected before finalisation. A first draft has been made available in September 2020 and inputs received in 2021 with a finalisation before the end of 2022.
	(ii) Ensure the availability on the Authority's website of the submissions received from all stakeholders in response to the public consultation on the draft regulations on exploitation	Organ responsible	Ongoing	All submissions have been made publicly available on the website of ISA for each public consultation organized on the draft exploitation regulations.
3.4.2 Keep under review the adequacy of the monitoring programmes and methodologies	(i) Review environmental impact assessments for testing collector components in the exploitation areas	Coordinating organ	In progress	<p>The secretariat prepared a note to the LTC to assist the Commission in its review of the environmental impact statement submitted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India (ISBA/26/LTC/5). See also ISBA/26/C/12/Add.1.</p> <p>The Secretariat has also undertaken the preliminary review for completeness of the EIS submitted by NORI in August 2021, against the template contained in the Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environment impacts arising</p>

				from exploration for marine minerals in the Area, developed by the LTC (ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1). The LTC commenced reviewing the EIS in March 2022 and has provided initial feedback to NORI. The LTC will continue to review the EIS as well as additional information submitted by NORI, in July 2022.
3.5.1 Monitor, through cooperation with contractors, sponsoring States and other stakeholders, pollution and hazards to the marine environment from seabed activities undertaken in the Area	(i) Develop standards and guidelines for monitoring and ensuring the conduct of risk assessments	Coordinating organ	Achieved	<p>The Secretariat assisted in processing into the six languages of ISA the phase 1 draft standards and guidelines developed by the LTC on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft standard and guidelines for the environmental impact assessment process (ISBA/27/C/4); • draft guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements (ISBA/27/C/5); • draft guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans (ISBA/27/C/6 and Corr.1); <p>draft guidelines on the tools and techniques for hazard identification and risk assessment (ISBA/27/C/8).</p>
3.5.3 Implement the relevant requirements relating to the protection of the marine	Compile relevant guidelines on the development and management of	Organ responsible	Ongoing	In 2021, following a comprehensive review of the implementation of the CCZ environmental management plan, with

environment as contained in part XII of the Convention	marine protected areas beyond national jurisdictions			<p>assistance from the Secretariat, the LTC recommended further actions to advance the implementation of the plan. These included the establishment of four additional APEIs to enhance the effectiveness of the overall network (ISBA/C/26/43). The Council endorsed this recommendation in December 2021 (ISBA/26/C/58). In April 2022, the LTC decided to release the draft REMP for the Mid-Atlantic Ridge for stakeholder consultation, and will consider the comments in July 2022.</p> <p>The secretariat, in discussion with the LTC and host organizations, has also started preparation for additional expert workshops for the Northwest Pacific and Indian oceans.</p>
Strategic direction 4: promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area				
4.1.1 Actively promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area	Build collaborative initiatives to strengthen marine scientific research infrastructure in the Area	Associated organ (in partnership with the Council)	Ongoing	Different initiatives were developed to deliver against this action, including the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI), with a view to advance scientific understanding of deep-sea ecosystems in the Area. The disclosure of bathymetric data in ISA's new AREA2030 initiative promotes the extension of seabed mapping activities for the support of the UN Ocean Decade for Ocean Science.
4.1.3 Establish strategic alliances and partnerships with Governments, international	Create a collaborative network of scientific institutions to support the	Organ responsible	Ongoing	A collaborative network has been established for generating, accessing and

<p>organizations, contractors and other relevant stakeholders to advance research related to the environmental effects of activities in the Area</p>	<p>collection, analysis and archiving of environmental information and the development of long-term observation systems</p>			<p>using biodiversity data and information under the scope of SSKI. Scientific partners included in this network are: National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK), Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer), Ocean Biodiversity Information System and World Register of Marine Species (WORMS). Financial contribution from European Union, will support activities and further engagement of scientific partnerships</p>
<p>4.2.1 Enhance the collection, compilation, analysis and synthesis of research results and analysis, when available, in particular from contractors, including through the Authority's database as the principal repository for data and information related to the deep seabed and associated water column</p>	<p>Facilitate standardized approaches for taxonomic identification among contractors</p>	<p>Organ responsible</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The secretariat organized two virtual workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea (MOMAF) and the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK), on taxonomic standardization (September 2020), and on enhancing image-based biodiversity assessments to advance deep-sea taxonomy (October 2021). A third workshop will be convened in November 2022 on standardizing methodologies for collecting and sharing genetic sequence data and information</p>
<p>4.2.2 Ensure the dissemination of research results and analysis, when available, in a timely manner</p>	<p>(i) Collect and disseminate environmental baseline data collected by contractors</p>	<p>Organ responsible</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The secretariat has continued to collect data submitted by contractors together with their reports on annual activities. All data have been compiled in DeepData. A webinar on the public availability of DeepData for marine environmental research is part of an information series</p>

				for Africa. The co-chaired webinar, undertaken in June 2022, strengthens the dissemination of research results. ISA's ADSR project addresses marine scientific research topics by experts from African countries and includes reports and policy briefs on the environment around Mid-ocean ridges and in protected APEIs of the CCZ.
	(ii) Implement the Authority's data management strategy	Organ responsible	In progress	A draft data management strategy has been developed and will be finalized before the end of 2022.
	(iii) Expand taxonomic atlases for deep seabed and water column organisms	Organ responsible	Ongoing	In March 2022, the secretariat signed a letter of cooperation with World Register of Marine Species (WORMS), with a view to co-develop taxonomic toolkits, including species checklists and app-based field guides to facilitate deep-sea species identifications and descriptions.
4.3.1 Establish and enhance partnerships for improved sharing of data and information	Integrate non-confidential environmental information with the Ocean Biogeographic Information System of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Associated organ (In partnership with the Council)	Achieved	In May 2021 the ISA officially joined the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) network to serve as a node for the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) of IOC-UNESCO. Biodiversity data submitted by contractors to ISA DeepData database will continue to be shared with OBIS.
4.3.3 Build up, enhance and expand the Authority's database and facilitate the production of data analysis and synthesis, through partnerships with various scientific partners	Develop data visualization tools for multiple stakeholders	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Visualization tools for biodiversity data will continue to be developed through the collaboration with WORMS and OBIS. ISA Secretariat initiated the AREA2030 programme to facilitate disclosure of

				contractors' bathymetry data for scientific data analyses. A joint agreement with IHO provides for the integration of ISA's data base into its global data compilation to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science.
4.4.1 Promote and strengthen partnerships with the international scientific community, including by involving it in workshops and technical publications	Co-organize workshops on the synthesis of scientific and environmental data and information and the assessment of data gaps from different mineral provinces	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The secretariat has initiated the compilation and synthesis of environmental data for the Indian Ocean, as part of the preparation for the REMP workshop for the Indian Ocean. This work will be carried out in collaboration with the contractors and scientific organizations.
4.4.2 Promote and facilitate access to non-confidential information and data related to the marine environment	Request data from external users	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Environmental data collected by contractors continues to be made accessible by all users through DeepData.
4.5.2 Develop processes to assess the environmental implications of activities in the Area and disseminate and publish, as appropriate, the results of any such assessment	Publish technical reports on the environmental risk assessments of activities in the Area	Organ responsible	On hold	This output has been temporarily put on hold for the Council to be able to finalize the development of relevant standards/guidelines for environmental risk assessment by Council with a view to ensure that all documents produced be consistent. Preliminary assessment of potential cumulative impacts was performed using qualitative mathematical modelling in the north Mid-Atlantic region.
Strategic direction 5: build capacity for developing States				

5.1.1 Assist developing States, in particular geographically disadvantaged States, small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, in identifying their needs	(iii) Develop a capacity-building strategy for the Authority that addresses the needs identified by developing States	Organ responsible	In progress	Following the adoption of the decision ISBA/26/A/18 by the Assembly, the Secretariat has developed a draft strategy which has been submitted to public consultation in April 2022 with a view for adoption by the Assembly at its 27 th session.
5.1.2 Adjust capacity-building programmes as necessary to meet the needs of developing States	(i) Make adjustments to address the needs identified by developing States	Organ responsible	In progress	Following the adoption of the decision ISBA/26/A/18 by the Assembly, the Secretariat has initiated some necessary steps to adjust the capacity development programmes/initiatives implemented by ISA. The inputs of NAFOP-CD in that regards are very useful. See (ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2).
5.2.1 Promote and strengthen partnerships with Governments, international organizations and the private sector to maximize funding opportunities and in-kind contributions for the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its beneficiaries	Report on partnerships established to maximize funding opportunities for the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its beneficiaries	Organ responsible	In progress	The Secretariat has taken steps to identify ways and means to promote further funding opportunities for the EFMSR and submitted revised terms of reference for consideration to the FC (ISBA/27/FC/3).
5.2.2 Participate in global financing mechanisms to foster funding opportunities for the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its beneficiaries	No output against this action	Organ responsible	In progress	Steps have been taken to identify potential relevant financial mechanisms and further is expected to be achieved before the end of 2022.
5.3.1 Promote, prioritize and implement capacity-building measures in all projects and activities, as far as practicable, implemented by the Authority, alone and in partnership,	(i) Ensure the dissemination of and access to all information on	Organ responsible	On going	During the reporting period, the secretariat advertised a total of 75 capacity-building opportunities including: 83 training places pursuant to

with an emphasis on the needs identified by developing States	capacity-building opportunities on the Authority's website			20 contracts for exploration, 2 funded internships and 10 national experts secondments with the Secretariat.
	(ii) Ensure that all the Authority's projects and activities, as far as practicable, contain a dedicated capacity-building component	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Dedicated efforts have been made to ensure, where feasible, that all projects and activities under development contain a capacity-building component. See (ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2).
	(iii) Develop and implement measures and process that ensure the selection of the best qualified candidates	Organ responsible	On going	The secretariat assisted the LTC to continuously improve the process it uses to select candidates through recommendations . The secretariat has also upgraded the trainees' database which will further improve evaluation of applicants.
	(iv) Promote and develop excellence in deep sea research among young scientists and researchers from developing States through the Secretary-General's awards	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2).
5.4.1 Undertake regular assessments of contractors' training programmes and their long-term impact on capacity-building	(i) Analyse the long-term impact of the contractors' training programmes	Organ responsible	In progress	In March 2022, an end of training survey was developed as a complementary tool for reporting by trainees and Contractors. Further, the services of a consultant is being sought to develop indicators and analytics to map current and long term benefits and/or impacts of training at the individuals' level and at national or institutional level.

<p>5.4.2 Facilitate the adjustment of contractor training programmes to meet the needs of developing States</p>	<p>(i) Identify, in partnership with contractors, options for the adjustment of their contractors' training programmes</p>	<p>Organ responsible</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Since 2020, ISA has formed and maintained dialogue with over fifty national focal points nominated by Members of ISA to assist the Secretariat with the implementation of ISA's programmatic approach to capacity development endorsed by the Assembly in December 2020 (ISBA/26/A/18). In line with the feedback received from focal points as well as priority needs identified by Members of ISA at the 2020 workshop on "Capacity development, resources and needs assessment", the Secretariat has been keen to ensure that the specific priority needs identified in the 2021 Policy brief has been taken into consideration when negotiating/reviewing training proposals for the period while promoting equality and increase participation of women and persons from in particular geographically disadvantaged States, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and least developed countries. Of the training programmes advertised for the period, 7 were for higher-education programmes on deep-sea issues, over 30 were for practical at-sea onboard training placements advertised despite COVID-19 challenges; 7 Contractors (BGR, CPRM, GSR, Ifremer, Marawa, NORI, TOML) have since pledged 50% of their</p>
---	--	--------------------------	----------------	---

				training placements to women under the WIDSR programme ; and 17 placements went to candidates from geographically disadvantaged States.
	(ii) Develop cost-effective measures to improve the delivery of the contractors' training programmes	Organ responsible	In progress	An end of training survey was developed in March 2022. Additionally, a code of conduct to guide both trainees and Contractors is currently under development and should be ready before the end of 2022.
Strategic direction 6: ensure fully integrated participation by developing States				
6.1.1 Develop measures to increase participation by developing States in the implementation of the regime for the Area	(i) Identify measures to increase the participation of developing States in the work of the Authority	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Three sets of publications outlining the relevant provisions of UNCLOS to address specificities of LDCs, LLDCS and SIDS have been launched in November 2021 [https://www.isa.org.jm/event/report-launch-law-sea-ocean-opportunity-ldcs-lldc-and-sids]. Dedicated measures are also considered under the draft capacity development strategy currently under development.
	(ii) Identify measures to increase the participation of developing States in marine scientific programmes carried out in the Area	Organ responsible	Ongoing	As above. Further information can also be found in the report presented by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Action plan of the Authority in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (ISBA/26/A/25 ; ISBA/27/A/4)
6.2.1 Consult developing States members of the Authority to identify potential barriers to	(i) Organize consultations with developing States members of the	Organ responsible	Achieved	Consultation organized in April-May 2020 with all members of ISA,

participation and devise mechanisms to address them	Authority with a view to identifying potential barriers to their participation in activities in the Area			particularly developing States, to identify national capacity development priorities as they relate to the role and mandate of ISA. The results have been presented by the Secretary-general to the Assembly at its 26 th session (ISBA/26/A/7). Further inputs are being received through the ongoing dialogue with NAFOP-CD.
	(ii) Report on potential mechanisms identified to remove the barriers that stop developing States members of the Authority from participating fully in activities in the Area	Organ responsible	Completed	A review of all capacity-building programmes and initiatives implemented by ISA has been commissioned by the secretariat in preparation of the international workshop on “Capacity development, needs and resources assessment” organized in February 2020. The review has been revised on the basis of the outcomes of the workshop (ISBA/26/A/12) and the comment made by stakeholders as a result of the public consultation that was held between April and May 2020. These elements constitute the foundation of the report presented by the Secretary-General to the Assembly (ISBA/26/A/7) which recommendations have been endorsed by the Assembly (ISBA/26/A/18). The Secretariat has since developed a draft capacity development strategy which will be submitted for adoption by Assembly to the 27 th session.

6.3.1 Identify training opportunities for personnel from developing States in marine science and technology	(i) Develop a network of entities providing training opportunities for personnel from developing States	Organ responsible	In progress	The Secretariat, together with NAFOP-CD, has taking steps to identify relevant national institutions for providing such training opportunities.
	(ii) Promote and facilitate the establishment of regional centres of excellence for strengthening capacities in developing States	Associated organ	Ongoing	Discussions are currently ongoing with several members of the Authority in that respect.
	(iii) Establish and maintain a database of trainees from developing States who have benefited from training opportunities	Organ responsible	In progress	<p>The ISA Capacity Building Dashboard was launched in 2021. It is updated on a quarterly basis and includes data on trainees under the CTP, EFMSR, Internship Programme, Abyssal and ADSR programmes.</p> <p>Phase 2 of this project which started in Q2 of 2021 involves the creation of an automated CTP application portal and database for the selection of trainees by the LTC and storage of trainee data. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by the end of Q3 of 2022.</p>
6.3.2 Actively promote partnerships with Governments, contractors and international organizations to maintain and develop training opportunities for personnel from developing States	(i) Facilitate the selection of qualified candidates for training programmes under plans of work	Organ responsible	Ongoing	For the period, the Secretariat continues to provides assistance to the LTC training group during the session or intersessionally (ISBA/26/LTC/9 and ISBA/27/LTC/5).
	(ii) Report on the implementation of training programmes	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Regular report is made during each session of the LTC (ISBA/26/C/12/Add.2 , para. 16; and ISBA/27/C/16 , para. 4.

6.3.3 Identify and develop measures to strengthen the role of women in deep seabed-related activities and, in particular, deep seabed research	Report on the measures identified or developed that could be implemented by the Authority to strengthen the role of women in deep sea research	Organ responsible	Ongoing	For the period the Secretariat continues to work with the LTC to ensure where possible that gender balance is achieved as far as is practicable during selection of candidates for contractor training programmes (ISBA/26/LTC/9 and ISBA/27/LTC/5). To date 7 CTP contractors have pledged to the WIDSR initiative as listed in 5.4.2 (i) <i>supra</i> . Further initiatives are currently under development to foster the action of ISA in that regard.
Strategic direction 7: ensure equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits				
7.1.1 Develop and implement, on a non-discriminatory basis, rules, regulations and procedures for the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area	Conduct a study on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits from deep seabed mining	Organ responsible	Achieved	The Finance Committee produced a comprehensive report to the Council and the Assembly in 2021 (ISBA/26/A/24-ISBA/26/C/39). The secretariat also produced Technical Study 31. Based on the discussions in the Council and Assembly, the Finance Committee will continue its work on this matter in 2022 and 2023.
Strategic direction 8: improve the organizational performance of the Authority				
8.1.1 Identify opportunities to strengthen management culture, reduce risk and introduce best practices through the planning, development and implementation of organizational reforms	(ii) Develop the secretariat's business plan	Organ responsible	Achieved	The Secretariat's business plan has been finalised in April 2021 and is kept updated on an ongoing basis.

	(iii) Develop and maintain a good working environment based on a strong management culture	Organ responsible	On going	Emphasis has been placed on improving the delivery of programmes by ISA through optimization of performance at all levels and the involvement of the Staff Association in the welfare of the Secretariat staff. (ISBA/ST/AI/2017/3 ; ISBA/ST/AI/2018/1).
	(iv) Ensure excellence in the provision of administrative services by the Authority	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/ST/SGB/2020/4)
	(v) Ensure compliance with United Nations security and safety policies	Organ responsible	In progress	ISA also contributes to the UN Security Management System. This ensures access to disaster evacuation arrangements and medical evacuations and enables ISA to participate in the Interagency Security Management Network (IAMSN) and relevant Security Training Working Groups
	(vii) Report the exact cost for supervising and administering the contracts for exploration	Organ responsible	Ongoing	As per ISBA/26/FC/3 the supervision and administration of the contract maintenance has been fixed to USD 80,000 per year.
8.1.2 Develop and maintain a risk management framework	(i) Review the secretariat's risk management exercise for the biennium 2019–2020	Organ responsible	On going	The Business and Continuity Plan is updated on an ongoing basis.
	(ii) Establish a risk register and business continuity plan for the Authority	Organ responsible	On going	The Business and Continuity Plan is updated on an ongoing basis.

8.1.3 Implement human resource policies that will attract and retain talents to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Authority	Ensure the performance of the recruitment process	Organ responsible	On going	The secretariat has progressively reviewed and updated the relevant policies since 2017 to improve the performance of the recruitment process, taking into account ISA's immediate short and long term needs as well as ensuring alignment with UN agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations. Particular attention has been given to ensure gender balance as well as consistent competency based interviews in recruitment, the use of INSPIRA and the development of ISA recruitment portal.
8.1.4 Provide, as far as practicable, capacity development for staff to ensure that skills and aptitudes meet the evolution and emerging needs of member States	(i) Enhance the Authority's capacity through professional development and learning	Organ responsible	On going	In line with the learning and development policy of the secretariat (ISBA/ST/SGB/2018/1), a Learning and Advisory Board has been established (ISBA/ST/SGB/2018/3; ISBA/ST/IC/2022/5) to advise the senior management group on the learning and development priorities and plans for staff. As a result, 55 training opportunities have been available and benefited staff members in 2022.
8.1.5 Develop, implement, enhance, support and manage information systems and standard operating procedures in support of a knowledge- and information-based organization	(i) Develop, implement and keep under review the communications and information technology services to ensure the efficient delivery of services by the Authority	Organ responsible	On going	The secretariat has continued, on the basis of the recommendations received from the Communications and Information Technology Steering Committee established in 2017 (ISBA/ST/SGB/2017/8; ISBA/ST/IC/2018/5;

				ISBA/ST/IC/2020/6) to improve and streamline CIT services utilizing upgraded network servers, virtualization and upgraded features particularly to allow the Secretary-General, staff, members of the LTC/FC as well as permanent representatives and relevant experts to meet remotely and progress discussion on the work of the secretariat.
8.1.6 Explore the needs of the organs and subsidiary bodies of the Authority, as well as necessary institutional adjustments to their set-up and functioning, in line with the evolutionary approach, so that they may effectively discharge their respective responsibilities at the various stages of development of activities in the Area	Issue a report identifying the needs and the adjustments necessary to accompany the evolution of the Authority	Associated organ	In progress	The Secretariat provided reports to the Council on the operationalization of the Enterprise and on the establishment of the Economic Planning Commission.
8.2.1 Further encourage the active participation of members and relevant stakeholders to achieve the Authority's mission objectives through cooperation and collaboration	(i) Develop and keep under review guidelines and criteria for the application process for and the participation of observers	Associated organ	On going	During the 25 th session, the Assembly approved the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with ISA (ISBA/25/A/16 ; ISBA/25/A/17 , para.12 and ISBA/25/A/16).
	(ii) Develop measures and mechanisms to encourage contributions by members and relevant stakeholders to the programmes, projects and initiatives of the Authority	Organ responsible	Achieved	(See ISBA/25/A/16 , enclosure 1, para.13 -17)
8.2.2 Implement and keep under review working methods and processes of the organs of the Authority	(i) Issue a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/25/C/12 ; ISBA/25/C/12/Add.1 ; ISBA/26/C/3 ; ISBA/27/C/27).

	(iv) Review the financial rules and regulations, as needed	Coordinating organ	On going	No amendment has been identified as necessary for the reporting period.
	v) Revise the guidelines on the organization and method of work, as needed	Organ responsible	On going	(see ISBA/ST/SGB/2020/4).
8.3.1 Adopt, implement and keep under review measures for the effective, efficient and transparent utilization and management of the Authority's resources	(i) Ensure proactive communication and engagement with member States on the status of assessed contributions	Organ responsible	On going	Assessed contribution billing is done timely.
	(ii) Ensure the timely submission of financial reports	Organ responsible	On going	ISA 2022 audited financial statements was completed timely and has already been shared with the ISA finance committee for their review.
	(iii) Report on the status of the various voluntary trust funds	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/25/FC/6 ; ISBA/26/FC/2 ; ISBA/27/FC/6).
8.4.1 Identify long-term options for the sustainable financing of the Authority's operations	(ii) Develop a resource mobilization strategy for the Authority	Organ responsible	In progress	Significant progress has been made in this and it is envisaged that this strategy will be finalised by the end of 2022.
8.4.2 Undertake regular assessment of long-term options for financing the Authority's operations	Report on potential long-term options for financing the Authority's operations	Organ responsible	In progress	In 2021, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the FC on the future financing of the Organization by 2030 (ISBA/26/FC/7). After review by the FC, the findings of the report have been endorsed by the FC (ISBA/26/C/21-ISBA/26/A/10).

8.4.3 Actively promote and encourage contributions from Governments, international organizations, contractors and other stakeholders to develop and enhance the impact of the Authority's operations	Report on strategic partnerships established to support the Authority's programmes and activities	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/25 ; ISBA/27/A/4).
Strategic direction 9: Commit to transparency				
9.1.1 Enhance the Authority's public outreach programme in a timely and cost-effective manner	(i) Organize informational workshops to raise awareness of the Authority's role and mandate, as well as of benefits associated with the sustainable development of deep seabed resources	Organ responsible	On going	The latest initiative launched by the ISA Secretariat in 2021 is the "Deep DiplomaSea" webinar series for personnel for permanent missions to ISA and to the UN. In 2022, two webinars have been organized in March 2022 and May 2022.
	(ii) Develop communications tools (e.g., briefing papers and technical studies) to support outreach activities	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2)
	(iv) Report on the activities undertaken by the Authority to increase public outreach	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2)
9.1.2 Raise awareness of the role of the Authority in global ocean governance and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in a timely and cost-effective manner	Strategically position the Authority in international meetings and forums to raise awareness of its role in global ocean governance and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Organ responsible	On going	(See ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2)
9.2.1 Promote and enhance the availability of, and access to, non-confidential information and, in particular, consider a wider dissemination of information, analyses and decisions relating to the work of the	(i) Explore with contractors the possibility for making contracts for exploration and associated programmes of activities publicly available	Associated organ	In progress	Standardized templates providing public information on the plans of work for exploration of contractors have been published on ISA's website. In 2022, contractors will be requested to review their existing templates to update them in

Authority, especially through the Authority's database				line with the most recent five-year programme of activities. The Secretary-General continues to pursue dialogue with contractors who have not yet submitted templates on their plans of work. These are: JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya; the Government of the Russian Federation (in respect of the contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides and for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts); Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation; and Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd. See ISBA/27/C/27.
	(iii) Ensure that the Authority's website is regularly updated and provides information in a timely manner	Organ responsible	On going	Updates are systematically uploaded on ISA website.
	(iv) Ensure the publication of workshop reports and technical studies in a timely and effective manner	Organ responsible	On going	Since July 2021, 12 new publications were released and made available on the ISA website, including five general publications, five technical studies, one policy brief and one workshop report.
	(v) Maintain and develop the Satya N. Nandan Library as a primary source for information on deep seabed mining and the law of the sea	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(See ISBA/26/A/2 ; ISBA/26/A/2/Add.1 ; ISBA/27/A/2)
9.3.2 Develop clear, open and cost-effective working practices and procedures to ensure that the chain of responsibility and accountability is properly managed in the	(i) Undertake periodic reviews of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The periodic review process continued to be refined during the 25 th and 26 th Sessions. As a result, the role of LTC was defined more clearly,

development, implementation and enforcement of technical, environmental, operational, scientific and safety regulations and standards for activities in the Area				recommendations on the standardisation of the format of periodic reports was finalised by the LTC and the Secretariat implemented its standardised process of reviewing periodic reports (ISBA/26/C/4).
	(ii) Report on the status of contracts for exploration and related matters, including information on the periodic review of the implementation of approved plans of work for exploration	Coordinating organ	Ongoing	(See; ISBA/26/C/4 , ISBA/26/C/4/Add.1 , ISBA/26/C/3/Add.2 , ISBA/27/C/28)
	(iii) Encourage contractors to provide detailed programmes of activities for five-year periods that include clear objectives	Coordinating organ	Ongoing	During part I of the 26 th session of the LTC, the secretariat assisted in developing a template for the content of periodic reports and presented the template to the contractors (ISBA/26/C/12). All Contractors now use the new template for periodic reporting. In turn the Secretariat and LTC are now using the template as a basis to evaluate the periodic report. In the few cases where the proposed five-year programmes have been considered not sufficiently or clearly detailed, the Secretary-General has requested the contractor to provide additional/clearer details leading to full compliance in this matter.
	(iv) Develop a framework for establishing a registry of contracts	Organ responsible	In progress	Progress has been made in the establishment of a reference group for

	in accordance with best international practice			the development of the mining registry. A work plan has also been developed to advance the work throughout 2022.
	(v) Organize meetings with contractors to ensure dialogue between them and the Authority, monitor the implementation of training programmes and encourage contractors to share relevant data and information on the Authority's database	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The 4 th annual meeting of exploration contractors was held in virtual format on 19 and 22 April 2021 and was attended by 72 representatives of contractors The next Contractors Meeting is confirmed to take place in St. Petersburg, Florida between 29th of Sept and 1st of Oct 2022
	(vi) Report on the outcomes of the contractors' meetings.	Organ responsible	On going	As per usual practice, a report will be made available after the meeting.
9.3.3 Keep under review the effectiveness of working practices and procedures	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	(See 8.1.1 (iii)).
9.4.1 Promote the adoption of a communications and stakeholders' engagement strategy	(i) Develop and implement a communications and stakeholders' engagement strategy	Organ responsible	In progress	This strategy is under development and a first draft has been shared in September 2020 with inputs received in 2021. A second draft will be shared in 2022 for public consultation with a view of finalising the document by the end of 2022.
9.4.2 Actively engage relevant stakeholders in the work of the Authority, as appropriate	(i) Develop administrative elements and processes to engage relevant stakeholders in the work of the Authority	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Processes have been regularly put in place to allow stakeholders to engage in the work of ISA.

	(ii) Facilitate the consultation of relevant stakeholders in the development of the draft regulations on exploitation	Organ responsible	On going	The Secretariat posted all textual proposals submitted by delegations during the March 2022 Council meeting and also textual proposals submitted post-session on its website in the sections dedicated to the work of each Informal Working Group (IWG) established by the Council.
--	---	-------------------	----------	---