



AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN JAMAÏQUE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Thank you Secretary-General,

It is a pleasure for me to be here today for this webinar.

This draft Action Plan which will be further presented and discussed by the different panellists is certainly a critical component of the work that is being done by the Authority in fulfilling the mandate given to it by UNCLOS.

In fact, most of the work undertaken so far by the Authority is intrinsically related to scientific research. Not only because this is the fundamental objective of any prospecting and exploration activities allowed under the legal regime set out in UNCLOS but also because it is through the advancement of science and knowledge that the Authority has implemented its mandate for the last 25 years.

We traditionally hear about this concept of “evolutionary approach” that UNCLOS requires the Authority to follow in its work. But what needs to be underscored is that such evolution cannot be successful without being properly informed by science. This aspect is too often forgotten and it is therefore of particular importance to recall this specific feature today in the way the Authority, like no other intergovernmental organization, works and progresses. It is simply remarkable.

Accordingly, the Action Plan that the Assembly is invited to consider for adoption is not only in the continuity of what has been agreed by the members, through the Strategic Plan and the High-Level Action Plan for 2019-2023, but more importantly reflects accurately what the Authority is about. First, advancing science and knowledge to ensure the sustainable development of seabed minerals activities in the Area and second, ensuring that this is done for the benefit of humankind.

The very thorough and detailed elements contained in this Action Plan will certainly be of great importance in the years ahead and we are confident that it will be a significant contribution for the UN Decade of Ocean Science to be really successful.

Thank you.