

## Comments submitted by Portugal

*The draft report on the ISA Capacity Development Strategy is very much welcome! Very good initiatives were already developed by the Authority and it is envisaged a significant increase of actions on capacity building and awareness.*

*For now, as the national focal point, these are my comments to the document based on come consultations:*

*General comment*

*The capacity actions should aim to also include the science managers in public organizations, which may contribute to implement regulations at the national level that may help to achieve ISA objectives.*

**Key result area 1:**

**Output 1.d - Capacity development programmes and activities designed to respond to the needs identified by developing States, members of the Authority, reflect where appropriate and possible, one or more main mandate categories of the Authority under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.**

*Comment: I am not sure if it should be the other way around: "Programmatic activities developed by the Authority within its mandate categories under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement shall include, where appropriate and possible, capacity development programmes and activities designed to respond to the needs identified by developing States, members of the Authority". It seems that can reflect better paragraph 15.*

**Key result area 2:**

**Output 2.a: Strategic partnerships with competent international and regional organizations fostered and developed to ensure synergies and avoid duplication in delivery of capacity development programmes and activities.**

*Comment: This is quite important. I suggest to look at <https://allatlanticocean.org/jointaction/all-atlantic-ocean-capacity-development-and-training-platform> as an example of such organizations that may be establish partnerships with the ISA.*

*Particularly the implementation of summer schools and floating universities are elected as objectives and may contribute to Output 2.h (Output 2.h: Practicability of the organization of “summerschools” or on-demand executive courses on deep-sea related matters explored and, when possible, organized in partnership with interested institutions). Output 2.b: Relevant regional/national institutions identified and contacted to support the design and implementation of capacity development projects and activities by the Authority.*

*Comment: Portugal has a significant number of research units focused on the study of the deep-sea and with a proper coordination from the public funding agency (FCT: Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia) they may contribute with new capacity opportunities for the ISA, its members, and particularly for developing countries of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.*

**Output 2.c: National and regional training and research centres established, where relevant, to respond to the needs of developing States members of the Authority, especially LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.**

*Comment: It is assumed that the establishment of regional marine and technological centres should be prioritized to happen in developing States. It will be crucial to find and assure a stable and sustainable source of funding in order to evaluate results at medium and long-term.*

**Output 3.e: Dedicated initiatives and partnerships established in close cooperation with members, research institutions and contractors to facilitate access of developing States in particular LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS to physical research and observation infrastructure developed.**

*Comment: I suggest to add “and digital databases” to “physical research and observation infrastructure developed.”*

**Output 5.a: Awareness and understanding of the general public on the deep-sea (resource potential of seabed minerals, geology, biodiversity, ecosystems, exploration activities etc) as well as the legal framework in place to regulate and organize access to and management of seabed mineral resources in the Area improved.**

**Output 5.b: Awareness and understanding of the general public of the specific and unique mandate of the Authority in relation to marine scientific research in the Area as well as the programmatic activities implemented under the Action plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science increased.**

*Comment: Focusing on this objective, it could be interesting to translate the materials produced by the Authority also to Portuguese in order to foster awareness to a wider public.*