

Statement by the Government of China  
on the “Action plan of the International Seabed Authority in  
support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for  
Sustainable Development” and “Implementing a  
programmatic approach to capacity development”

(8 December 2020)

Pursuant to the letter dated 3 December of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (“Authority”), with respect to the “Action plan of the International Seabed Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” and “Implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development”, the Chinese side would like to make a statement as the following:

As to the “Action plan of the International Seabed Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”, the Chinese side supports the plan of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and takes the view that the Authority doing its work well is the best support for the above plan. Under the current special situation, the relevant Action Plan, in particular the proposed Authority collaborative centre on deep-sea research should not incur additional costs so as to add to the financial burden of States Parties. We appreciate that the Secretariat has provided clarification and explanation on this matter upon inquiry.

As regards “Implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development”, as a member of the developing countries, while actively participating in the international seabed affairs, we consistently support the improvement of the deep-sea capacity-building for other developing countries. In November, the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Center (JTRC) has been formally launched online. Outside the budget of the Authority, the JTRC will provide training to the personnel from developing countries with respect to deep seabed science and technology. We support “Implementing a programmatic approach to capacity development” in principle and hope that the Authority may hold more virtual capacity-building seminars instead of on-site meetings so that it can save costs and benefit more countries and audiences. In order to ensure the sustainability of the capacity-building, transfer of technology should be conducted in line with the relevant provisions of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, including sound commercial principles, on fair and reasonable commercial terms and conditions, consistent with the effective Protection of intellectual property rights.

China advocates for the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and a maritime community with a shared future, and stands ready to work with all parties to carry on the international governance for the deep-sea and share the benefits of deep-sea mining.