

Annex II: Status of implementation by the Assembly of the relevant high-level actions and associated outputs for the reporting period 2021-2023

No. High-level action	Outputs for 2021-2023			
	Description	Responsibility of the Assembly	Status ¹	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	Associated organ	Ongoing	Annual reporting is made by the Secretary-General in the report presented to the Assembly under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2).
1.1.2 Keep under review the adequacy of the programmes and initiatives of the Authority with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14, and propose adjustments as necessary	Assess and review the programmes and initiatives of the Authority against relevant goals and targets of Agenda 2030	Associated organ	Ongoing	See independent report commissioned by the Secretary-General and released in 2021, Contribution of the International Seabed Authority to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development .
1.2.1 Establish partnerships to foster cooperation with the United Nations,	(i) Report on the contribution of the Authority to the work of the	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Annual reporting is made by the Secretary-General in the report presented to the Assembly under article 166(4) of

¹The different status used to assess the progress of each high-level actions and/or associated outputs are regrouped in three categories, namely: (i) “completed”, (ii) “in progress”, and (iii) “on hold”. In order to reflect the different status of completion, particularly the fact that some outputs are recurring, two different sub-categories of progress status have been identified. One relates to the “ongoing” nature of some outputs, understood as requiring ongoing attention and adjustment. The other one relates to the fact that in some cases, because the output is to be reported against a specific reporting period or action, the status of completion is “achieved”.

including through the UN-Oceans coordination mechanism, on matters of mutual interest, and provide relevant input and guidance	United Nations on matters of mutual interest			UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2). Information is also shared through the contribution of the Secretariat to the various report of the UN Secretary-General, the resolution on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea as well as other initiatives (ICP, SPLOS) etc.
	(ii) Consider requests for observer status from international organizations in accordance with rule 82 (1) (d) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly	Organ responsible	Ongoing	During the 26 th and 27 th session, the Assembly considered and adopted 7 requests for observer status (ISBA/26/A/34 and ISBA/27/A/15).
	(iii) Explore opportunities for establishing a memorandum of understanding or any other relevant agreement to foster cooperation between the Authority and the United Nations	Organ responsible	Ongoing	During the reporting period a letter of cooperation has been signed between the ISA and the United Nations Technology Bank for Least developed countries to cooperate in the joint development of programmes and initiatives including to assist LDCs in the effective implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement.
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	Organ responsible	Organ responsible	Participation of ISA to the UN Decade and work of the IOC-UNESCO as coordinator, is reported by the Secretary-General under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2) and the report to the Assembly on the implementation of the ISA Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (ISBA/27/A/4 ; ISBA/28/A/8).

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	(ii) Consider requests for observer status from international and regional organizations in accordance with rule 82 (1) (c) and (d) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Although 7 requests for observer status have been considered and approved by the Assembly at the 27 th session, none of them was from an international and regional organization.
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	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The Assembly considered relevant issues through the examination of the annual report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/26/A/2 and ISBA/27/A/2).
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	(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	Organ responsible	Ongoing	See ISBA/27/A/2 , Part X and dedicated page on ISA website (https://www.isa.org.jm/biological-diversity-of-areas-beyond-national-jurisdiction-bbnj/) .
1.3.1 Ensure that activities in the Area are carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Monitoring is ensured through the annual report presented to the Assembly by the Secretary-General under article 166(4) of

				UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2) and has been reinforced with the adoption of the ISA Strategic Plan and the High-Level Action Plan for the period 2019-2023 (ISBA/24/A/10 ; ISBA/25/A/15 ; ISBA/25/A/15/Corr.1).
1.4.1 Actively engage with members to achieve the effective and uniform implementation of relevant legal instruments through State practice	(i) Promote and encourage the ratification of or accession to the 1994 Agreement	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/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2).
	(ii) Promote and encourage the ratification of or accession to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority	Organ responsible	Ongoing	Follow-up on information related to the promotion and encouragement to members of ISA, which have not done so, to become parties to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority. In December 2022, Greece ratified the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority.
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	Organ responsible	Ongoing	At its 27 th session, the Assembly adopted the Capacity development strategy for the International Seabed Authority (ISBA/27/A/11) and specific challenges identified are regularly reported through the Secretary-General's report under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2).
	(ii) Recommend specific measures to address specific	Organ responsible	Ongoing	The Assembly made specific recommendations in the basis of the report of Secretary-General on the

	challenges that have been identified			implementation of a programmatic approach on capacity development to deliver more effectively for the benefits of the members of ISA (ISBA/26/A/7) by adopting the Capacity development strategy (ISBA/27/A/11).
1.5.1 Promote and strengthen dialogue among States, relevant international organizations and stakeholders to foster the use of practical tools for mutual “reasonable regard” in order to accommodate activities in the Area and other activities in the marine environment	Develop practical tools to facilitate the implementation of “reasonable regard”	Organ responsible	Ongoing	No specific action has been taken by the Assembly on this matter at its 26 th and 27 th session.
Strategic direction 2: strengthen the regulatory framework for activities in the Area				
2.3.1 Monitor development and keep under review the adequacy of the legal framework for activities in the Area	(i) Undertake the periodic review of the international regime of the Area set out in article 154 of the Convention	Organ responsible	In progress	No decision was taken by the Assembly in this respect since 22 nd session (ISBA/22/A/11).
	(ii) Make recommendations based on the findings of the period review to achieve improvements in the operation of the regime	Organ responsible	In progress	No periodic review was undertaken by the Assembly since 22 nd session (ISBA/22/A/11).
2.3.2 Ensure that rules, regulations and procedures governing mineral exploitation reflect the establishment of an adaptive management system	No output against this action	Organ responsible	In progress	No concrete output has been developed by the Assembly against this item.

2.4.1 Keep under review the regulatory framework to ensure that it gives due consideration to developing States and promotes their participation in activities in the Area	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	No concrete output has been developed by the Assembly against this item.
Strategic direction 3: protect the marine environment				
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	Associated organ	Ongoing	No concrete output has been developed by the Assembly against this item.
3.2.4 Encourage and facilitate strategic partnerships to support the work of the Authority in developing, implementing and keeping under review regional environmental assessment and management plans	No output against this action	Organ responsible	In progress	Despite the Council endorsed different initiatives at its 25 th and 26 th session, the Assembly has not decided on any specific element yet.
3.4.3 Encourage and facilitate strategic partnerships to support the work of the Authority in developing robust monitoring programmes and methodologies	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	No concrete output has been developed by the Assembly against this item.
3.5.4 Encourage and facilitate strategic partnerships to support the work of the Authority in developing regulations, procedures, monitoring programmes and methodologies	No output against this action	Organ responsible	Ongoing	No concrete output has been developed by the Assembly against this item.

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	Organ responsible	In progress	The Authority launched AREA2030, a new collective initiative implemented by ISA and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to foster partnerships and collaboration for the high-resolution mapping of the international seabed area (the Area) by 2030. As of June 2023, the ISA Secretariat has facilitated the submission by five Contractors of high-resolution bathymetric data.
4.1.2 Promote and encourage research related to the environmental effects of activities in the Area	Facilitate long-term observation programmes for monitoring the environment and the development of environmentally sound technology in the Area	Organ responsible	In progress	At the UN Conference in 2022, the Authority launched the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative, will describe over one thousand new species from the regions of the Area that are currently being explored for mineral resources and may be targeted for future exploitation. The initiative and the new knowledge it will generate will enable scientists to create maps of life on the seafloor and help us understand and manage the possible effects of anthropogenic activities on deep-sea ecosystems.
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	(iii) Develop a capacity-building strategy for the Authority that addresses the needs identified by developing States	Associated organ	Completed	The Assembly adopted the Capacity development strategy of the Authority during its 27 th session (ISBA/27/A/11).

countries and land-locked developing countries, in identifying their needs.				
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	Associated organ	Ongoing	The Assembly at its 27 th session adopted a decision to replace the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research with the ISA Partnership Fund (ISBA/27/A/10).
5.4.2 Facilitate the adjustment of contractor training programmes to meet the needs of developing countries	(i) identify, in partnership with contractors, options for the adjustment of their contractors' training programmes	Associated organ	In progress	The secretariat has initiated conversations with the training sub-group of the LTC on this matter with a view to review the recommendations in 2023.
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	Associated organ	Ongoing	See Secretary-General under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2) and the report to the Assembly on the implementation of the ISA Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (ISBA/27/A/4 ; ISBA/28/A/8).
	(ii) Identify measures to increase the participation of developing States in marine scientific programmes carried out in the Area	Associated organ	Ongoing	See the Secretary-General under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2) and the report to the Assembly on the implementation of the ISA Action Plan in support of the UN

				Decade of Ocean Science (ISBA/27/A/4 ; ISBA/28/A/8).
6.1.2 Identify and address the needs of developing States in the implementation of the regime for the Area	(i) Identify the needs of developing States for ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the regime for the Area	Organ responsible	Completed	An assessment of the needs of developing countries has been conducted in a workshop held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2020. The output of the workshop has been included in a publication of the Authority. The assessment also informed the preparation (ISBA/26/A/7) and adoption of the Capacity development strategy of the Authority (ISBA/27/A/11)
	(ii) Identify measures to improve the implementation of the regime for the Area by developing States	Organ responsible	Completed	At its 27 th session, the Assembly adopted the first Capacity development strategy (ISBA/27/A/11) of the Authority. It identifies 5 key result areas and 27 outputs with a view to promote the effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area.
6.2.1 Consult developing States members of the Authority to identify potential barriers to participation and devise mechanisms to address them	(i) Organize consultations with developing States members of the Authority with a view to identifying potential barriers to their participation in activities in the Area	Associated organ	Completed	The Secretariat has organised a consultation in April-May 2020 with all members of ISA, particularly developing States, to identify national capacity development priorities as they relate to the role and mandate of ISA. A new consultation will be organised by the end of 2023-beginning of 2024. Regular consultations are also held with developing countries through the National Focal Points for Capacity Development (NAFOP-CD) they

				nominated. The last meeting of NAFOP-CD was held in May 2023.
6.3.1 Identify training opportunities for personnel from developing States in marine science and technology	(ii) Promote and facilitate the establishment of regional centres of excellence for strengthening capacities in developing States	Organ responsible	In progress	The Secretariat is working closely with national institutions to create regional centres to strengthen capacities in developing countries. Two proposals have been submitted by the African Group for consideration and adoption by the Assembly at the 28 th session for the establishment of a regional joint and training center in Egypt and the development of a curriculum on Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement in partnership with the Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun.
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	Associated organ	Ongoing	See the Secretary-General under article 166(4) of UNCLOS (ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2) and the report to the Assembly on the implementation of the ISA Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (ISBA/27/A/4 ; ISBA/28/A/8).
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	(vii) Report the exact cost for supervising and administering the contracts for exploration	Associated organ (in partnership with the Council, FC)	On going	The FC reviewed the methodology for calculation of contractor overhead charges in 2020. For the financial period 2022-2023 the Assembly adopted a new budget presentation format allowing for a more transparent presentation of revenue and cost recovery by the Authority.

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	Organ responsible	In progress	The Secretary-General prepared a report on the future financing of the Authority for consideration by the FC in 2021 (ISBA/26/FC/7). The Committee requested an updated version of this report in 2023 (ISBA/28/FC/2) which allows for long-range budget planning out to 2030 based on the evolutionary approach.
8.2.2 Implement and keep under review working methods and processes of the organs of the Authority	(iii) Review the Staff Regulations and Rules of the Authority, as needed, to follow the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission	Organ responsible	On going	During the 27 th session, the Assembly did not adopt any decision in this regard. A report on proposed amendments to the statute of the ICSC has been submitted for consideration by the Assembly at its 28 th session (ISBA/28/A/5-ISBA/28/C/14).
	(iv) Review the financial rules and regulations, as needed	Organ responsible (in partnership with the Council)	On going	No amendment has been identified as necessary for the reporting period.
8.3.1 Adopt, implement and keep under review measures for the effective, efficient and transparent utilization and management of the Authority's resources	(ii) Ensure the timely submission of financial reports	Coordinating organ (in partnership with the Council)	On going	All reports have been timely submitted.
	(iii) Report on the status of the various voluntary trust funds	Coordinating organ (in partnership with the Council)	On going	(See ISBA/27/FC/6 and ISBA/28/A/2)
	(v) Issue a report, with recommendations, of the Finance Committee	Coordinating organ	On going	(See ISBA/27/A/8-ISBA/27C/36 and ISBA/28/A/4-ISBA/28/C/13)

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	Associated organ	On going	See ISBA/27/A/2 and ISBA/28/A/2.
Strategic direction 9: Commit to transparency				
9.4.1 Promote the adoption of a communications and stakeholders' engagement strategy	(ii) Consider requests for observer status from non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 82 (1) (e) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly	Organ responsible	In progress	This matter has been put on hold and it is now under discussion by the Council.