



Ensuring the Stewardship of the Area and its resources for the benefit of all humanity through science, technology and innovation: A Call for action

1. We, partners of the International Seabed Authority reiterate our strong commitment to maintaining the integrity of and effectively implementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement on the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention (1994 Agreement).
2. We, therefore, wish to renew our collective support to conserving and sustainably using our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and for the full and effective implementation of the global regime for the stewardship of the Area and its resources for the benefit of humankind, as reflected in the Convention and the 1994 Agreement, based on the precautionary approach/principle and informed by the best available science, pursuant to the mandate assigned to the International Seabed Authority.
3. We recognize that the Authority has been equipped with unique and complementary responsibilities that include the development of a strong regulatory framework to manage activities in the Area, the effective protection of the marine environment, the promotion and encouragement of marine scientific research and the sharing of benefits on the basis of equity.
4. We acknowledge the substantial contribution the Authority makes to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and commend its significant efforts to boost the capacity of developing States, including through better access to critical data and knowledge.
5. We stress the importance of the unique role of the Authority to promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of all, including developing States, through dedicated programmes with a view to strengthening their research capabilities, particularly with a view to advance empowerment and leadership of women scientists.

6. We are committed to actively supporting the implementation of the ISA Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, as a global agenda for deep sea science, and call on all members and observers of the Authority as well as exploration contractors, relevant international and regional organizations and partners to join these efforts with a view to:

a. Increasing investment in science and technology to advance global knowledge and understanding of the deep sea for the benefit of all humanity;

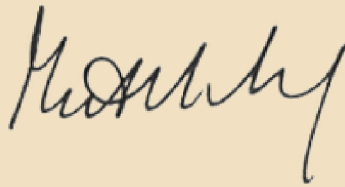
b. Aligning global, regional and national scientific research agendas to the priorities outlined in the ISA MSR Action Plan and providing support to its implementation;

c. Promoting deep sea literacy to raise awareness of the legal regime of the Area as well as the role of the Authority in advancing deep sea research;

d. Leveraging the capacities, experiences, and competencies of the Authority in support of the implementation of the Legally binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Signatures

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY




H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge
Secretary-General

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FISHERIES



Prof. Amr Hamouda
President

NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHY CENTRE



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