



Preparatory Commission for the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement

New York, USA

24 June 2024

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Greetings from Jamaica and let me congratulate you on your well-deserved appointment as co-chair of the Preparatory Commission. I also wish to congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election and assure you of the full support of the ISA to the process.

Let me also congratulate all those who have signed the new Agreement so far and especially those who have ratified.

This Preparatory Commission is an important part of the process leading to entry into force of the Agreement. It will help to pave the way for decisions to be taken expeditiously at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This includes the development of the rules of procedure of the COP, particularly in relation to the participation of the institutions established by UNCLOS, and other observers, in its meetings.

The Preparatory Commission for UNCLOS, which ran from 1983 to 1994, also demonstrated that the process can help to build trust among the delegations, resolve difficult issues left pending, and make a long-term contribution to the stability and effectiveness of the Agreement once it enters into force. Of course, we sincerely hope that this Preparatory Commission will not need to be prolonged for so many years.

Many of the objectives of the 2023 Agreement are also at the core of the mandate that UNCLOS and the 1994 Implementation Agreement entrusts to ISA for the Area. Over the past 30 years, ISA has gained unique experience that can contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the 2023 Agreement.

Some practical insights on such contribution are included in a new report on the contribution of ISA to the objectives of the 2023 Agreement, developed with the support of a group of eminent experts, that I had the pleasure to launch a few days ago on the margins of the 34th meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS.

The report is available on the ISA website.

As one of the three institutions established by UNCLOS and the only one with a specific regulatory competence, ISA is committed to do its part to facilitate and support the work of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you.
