INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

CONTENTS

CalvertGordon Associates
Chartered Accountants

Suite 110 City Centre Building
P.O. Box 60, Montego Bay
Jamaica, W.I.
Tell 876 952 4713-4

3rd Floor, 1 Eureka Crescent
Kingston 5
Jamaica, W.I.
Tel: 876 922 6825-7

info@calgorassociates.com
www.calgor.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of International Seabed Authority (the "Authority"), set out on Pages 2 to 31, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, the statements of financial performance, changes in net assets, cash flows and comparison of budget to actual amounts for the year then ended, and notes, comprising significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at December 31, 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards ("IPSAS").

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those charged with governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IPSAS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Report on the financial statements (Cont'd)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that presents a true and fair view.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

CalvertGordon Associates

Chartered Accountants

Kingston, Jamaica
May 2, 2024

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Notes	2023 $	Restated 2022 $
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	13,806,789	13,346,718
Members assessed contributions receivable	5	682,027	1,211,886
Other receivables	6	293,984	289,507
Advances to staff	7	139,975	147,644
Total current assets		14,922,775	14,995,755
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	8	215,907	277,265
Intangible assets	9	6,766	17,455
Total non-current assets		222,673	294,720
Total assets		15,145,448	15,290,475
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current liabilities			
Payable and accruals	10	864,437	993,667
Other provisions	11	868,216	1,451,276
Advance contributions	12	2,450,698	2,207,913
Repatriation benefits	13	19,917	58,841
Total current liabilities		4,203,268	4,711,697
Non-current liabilities			
Repatriation benefits	13	282,538	179,698
After service health insurance defined benefit	14	1,914,000	1,684,000
Total non-current liabilities		2,196,538	1,863,698
Net Assets			
Accumulated surplus: General Administration Fund (GAF)		3,992,543	4,091,706
Accumulated surplus: Non-general Administration Fund (Non-GAF)		6,667,099	6,307,374
Other reserve	14	(1,914,000)	(1,684,000)
Total net assets		8,745,642	8,715,080
Total liabilities and net assets		15,145,448	15,290,475

The Notes on Pages 10 to 31 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

The financial statements on Pages 2 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue on 2 May 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

....

Secretary General - Michael W. Lodge

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Notes	2023 $	Restated 2022 $
REVENUE			
Contributions:			
Assessed contributions	15	8,393,495	7,408,268
Voluntary contributions		657,141	713,138
Assessed working capital	2 (a)	23,925	23,922
The Enterprise	16	150,700	-
Overhead charges	17	2,400,000	2,480,000
Total contributions and other budgeted income		11,625,261	10,625,328
Other income:			
Interest income	18	327,412	283,179
Miscellaneous income	19	262,034	180,388
Cost recovery charges	25 (e)	250,650	8,681
Total other income		840,096	472,248
Total revenue		12,465,357	11,097,576
EXPENSES			
Administrative expenditure of the secretariat (Section 1)	20	7,605,966	7,083,728
Cost of conference services (Section 2)	21	1,671,080	2,130,283
Cost of programmes (Sections 2 - 5)	22	1,900,779	2,190,115
Endowment Fund expenditure	25 (b)	-	13,745
Voluntary Trust Fund expenditure	25 (c)	212,900	131,533
Support Trust Fund expenditure	25 (d)	488,414	496,483
Cost Recovery expenditure	25 (e)	187,601	257,794
ISA Partnership Fund expenditure	25 (f)	30,000	-
Depreciation and amortization		134,719	160,210
Change in provision for uncollected contribution	5	(26,664)	101,717
After service health insurance benefit charge	14	109,000	92,000
Total expenses		12,313,795	12,657,608
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		151,562	(1,560,032)
Classified as:			
Deficit for the year: GAF		(99,163)	(1,535,288)
Surplus for the year: Non GAF		359,725	67,256
Other reserves		(109,000)	(92,000)
		151,562	(1,560,032)

The Notes on Pages 10 to 31 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Accumulated Surplus: GAF	Accumulated Surplus: Non-GAF	Other Reserve	Total
	$	$	$	$
Balance at January 1, 2022	5,626,994	6,240,118	(2,361,000)	9,506,112
Remeasurement losses on after service health benefit	-	-	769,000	769,000
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(1,535,288)	67,256	(92,000)	(1,560,032)
Balance at December 31, 2022 (Restated)	4,091,706	6,307,374	(1,684,000)	8,715,080
Remeasurement losses on after service health benefit	-	-	(121,000)	(121,000)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(99,163)	359,725	(109,000)	151,562
Balance at December 31, 2023	3,992,543	6,667,099	(1,914,000)	8,745,642

The Notes on Pages 10 to 31 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Note	2023 $	Restated 2022 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		151,562	(1,560,032)
Adjustments for:			
Charge recognised in respect of after service health insurance		204,000	200,000
Depreciation and amortization		134,719	160,210
Expected credit loss recognised on contributions receivable		(26,664)	101,717
Operating cash flows before movement in working capital		463,617	(1,098,105)
Movement in working capital:			
Decrease/(Increase) in contributions receivable		556,523	(148,885)
Increase in other receivables		(4,477)	(177,502)
Decrease/(Increase) in advances to staff		7,669	(10,912)
(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions		(583,060)	593,021
Increase in advance contributions		242,785	972,902
Increase/(Decrease) in repatriation benefits		63,916	(49,326)
Decrease in payables and accruals		(129,230)	(297,390)
Contributions paid		(95,000)	(108,000)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		522,743	(324,197)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of property and equipment		(62,672)	-
Cash used in investing activities		(62,672)	-
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		460,071	(324,197)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		13,346,718	13,670,915
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR		13,806,789	13,346,718

The Notes on Pages 10 to 31 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Budget line	Original Budget	Actual	Balance	Adjustments to IPSAS Amount	Adjustments to IPSAS Comments	Cash Based Figures Actual	Cash Based Figures Balance
	$	$	$	$		$	$
Section 1. Administrative expenditures of the secretariat							
Established posts	3,945,000	3,997,337	(52,337)	57,935	Provision	3,939,402	5,598
Common staff costs	1,935,000	2,386,725	(451,725)	90,046	Provision	2,296,679	(361,679)
General Temporary Assistance	20,000	21,770	(1,770)	-		21,770	(1,770)
Overtime	13,000	8,857	4,143	-		8,857	4,143
Consultants (non-programme)	17,000	7,616	9,384	-		7,616	9,384
Training	65,000	19,628	45,372	3,840	Provision	15,788	49,212
Official Travel (non-programme)	95,000	91,364	3,636	-		91,364	3,636
Communications	92,000	67,246	24,754	3,174	Provision	64,072	27,928
Library books and supplies	70,000	76,143	(6,143)	261	Provision	75,882	(5,882)
External Printing (20 percent non-programme)	5,000	1,634	3,366	732	Provision	902	4,098
Supplies and Materials	60,000	61,148	(1,148)	-		61,148	(1,148)
Official Hospitality	7,000	7,265	(265)	-		7,265	(265)
Information Technology	60,000	82,134	(22,134)	1,755	Provision	80,379	(20,379)
Acquisition of equipment and furniture and others	65,000	80,433	(15,433)	-		80,433	(15,433)
Rental & maintenance of equipment and furniture	20,000	5,206	14,794	-		5,206	14,794
United Nations common system	120,000	138,868	(18,868)	15,125	Provision	123,743	(3,743)
Miscellaneous services and costs	88,000	86,315	1,685	1,556	Provision	84,759	3,241
Audit fees	23,000	20,219	2,781	18,398	Provision	1,821	21,179
Building Management	410,000	446,058	(36,058)	14,240	Provision	431,818	(21,818)
International Public Sector Accounting Standards/Enterprise Resource Planning (IPAS/ERP)	27,000	-	27,000	-		-	27,000
Total: Administrative expenditures of the Secretariat	7,137,000	7,605,966	(468,966)	207,062		7,398,904	(261,904)

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS (Cont'd)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Budget line	Original Budget	Actual	Balance	Amount	Comments	Actual	Balance
		Adjustments to IPSAS		***Cash Based Figures***			
	$	$	$	$		$	$
Section 2. Conference Services							
Printing and supplies	1,250	3,623	(2,373)	-		3,623	(2,373)
Miscellaneous Conference service costs	95,000	87,353	7,647	10,492	Provision	76,861	18,139
Rental of Jamaica Conference Centre	80,000	117,133	(37,133)	48,018	Provision	69,115	10,885
Temporary assistance (meetings)	50,000	69,271	(19,271)	647	Provision	68,624	(18,624)
Rental of Equipment	28,750	31,199	(2,449)	7,968	Provision	23,231	5,519
Local Transportation	6,500	8,146	(1,646)	-		8,146	(1,646)
Interpretation services	725,000	956,204	(231,204)	-		956,204	(231,204)
Documentation	650,000	390,356	259,644	382,662	Provision	7,694	642,306
Reception	13,500	7,795	5,705	-		7,795	5,705
Total: Cost of conference services	1,650,000	1,671,080	(21,080)	449,787		1,221,293	428,707
Section 3. Programme expenditures							
Programme 3.1 Development of the regulatory framework of activities in the Area							
Consultants	170,000	173,092	(3,092)	-		173,092	(3,092)
External Printing	5,000	2,042	2,958	-		2,042	2,958
Travel	26,000	46,243	(20,243)	9,738	Provision	36,505	(10,505)
Workshops	75,000	75,553	(553)	-		75,553	(553)
Subtotal: Programme 3.1	276,000	296,930	(20,930)	9,738		287,192	(11,192)
Programme 3.2 Protection of the marine environment							
Consultants	150,000	121,483	28,517	45,500	Provision	75,983	74,017
External Printing	10,000	384	9,616	-		384	9,616
Travel	55,000	22,458	32,542	416	Provision	22,042	32,958
Workshops	155,000	85,000	70,000	-		85,000	70,000
Subtotal: Programme 3.2	370,000	229,325	140,675	45,916		183,409	186,591

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS (Cont'd)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Budget line	Original Budget $	Actual $	Balance $	Adjustments to IPSAS: Amount $	Adjustments to IPSAS: Comments	Cash Based Figures: Actual $	Cash Based Figures: Balance $
Programme 3.3 Management of contracts	-	-	-	-		-	-
Programme 3.4 Data management (resource and environment)							
Consultants	75,000	57,571	17,429	-		57,571	17,429
External printing	5,000	270	4,730	-		270	4,730
Travel	25,000	17,866	7,134	-		17,866	7,134
Workshops	70,000	21,242	48,758	-		21,242	48,758
Information Technology	20,000	10,916	9,084	-		10,916	9,084
Maintenance and Support	75,000	85,678	(10,678)	6,865	Provision	78,813	(3,813)
Subtotal: Programme 3.4	270,000	193,543	76,457	6,865		186,678	83,322
Programme 3.5 Promotion and encouragement of marine scientific research in the Area							
Consultants	70,000	57,348	12,652	3,250	Provision	54,098	15,902
External Printing	8,000	5,353	2,647	-		5,353	2,647
Travel	40,000	37,953	2,047	4,076	Provision	33,877	6,123
Workshops	75,000	68,519	6,481	1,773	Provision	66,746	8,254
Subtotal: Programme 3.5	193,000	169,173	23,827	9,099		160,074	32,926
Programme 3.6 Outreach Activities							
Consultants	72,000	68,304	3,696	10,631	Provision	57,673	14,327
External printing	29,500	32,664	(3,164)	3,931	Provision	28,733	767
Travel	37,000	13,368	23,632	-		13,368	23,632
Workshops	3,000	950	2,050	-		950	2,050
Equipment	8,000	1,541	6,459	-		1,541	6,459
Training	5,000	5,789	(789)	272	Provision	5,517	(517)
Subtotal: Programme 3.6	154,500	122,616	31,884	14,834		107,782	46,718

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS (Cont'd)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Adjustments to IPSAS			*Cash Based Figures*			
Budget line	Original Budget $	Actual $	Balance $	Amount $	Comments	Actual $	Balance $
Programme 3.7 Capacity development and technical cooperation management							
Consultants	25,000	24,225	775	-		24,225	775
External Printing	20,000	6,402	13,598	1,162	Provision	5,240	14,760
Travel	70,000	60,313	9,687	-		60,313	9,687
Workshops	137,000	106,559	30,441	4,184	Provision	102,375	34,625
Subtotal: Programme 3.7	252,000	197,499	54,501	5,346		192,153	59,847
Programme 3.8 Mineral resources and mining technologies							
Consultants	65,000	64,852	148	-		64,852	148
External printing	5,000	399	4,601	-		399	4,601
Travel	30,000	41,596	(11,596)	-		41,596	(11,596)
Workshops	95,000	28,815	66,185	15,000	Provision	13,815	81,185
Subtotal: Programme 3.8	195,000	135,662	59,338	15,000		120,662	74,338
Total: Section 3 Programme expenditures	1,710,500	1,344,748	365,752	106,798		1,237,950	472,550
Section 4. Compliance Assurance and Regulatory Management Unit							
Salaries	301,000	296,605	4,395	2,922	Provision	293,683	7,317
Common staff costs	148,000	137,773	10,227	681	Provision	137,092	10,908
Travel	18,000	34,953	(16,953)	-		34,953	(16,953)
Workshops	15,000	15,025	(25)	-		15,025	(25)
Consultants	75,000	20,393	54,607	-		20,393	54,607
Equipment and printing	25,000	12,017	12,983	-		12,017	12,983
Total: Section 4	582,000	516,766	65,234	3,603		513,163	68,837
Section 5. The Enterprise	150,700	39,266	111,434	-		39,266	111,434
Total expenditures	11,230,200	11,177,826	52,374	767,250		10,410,576	819,624

The Notes on Pages 10 to 31 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

1 IDENTIFICATION

(a) The International Seabed Authority (the "Authority") is an intergovernmental organization. It is established by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention and came into existence on 16 November 1994. The Authority has 169 members as at December 31, 2023 (2022: 168 members).

(b) The Authority has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica. The governing bodies of the Authority are the Assembly, which comprises all members of the Authority, and the Council, which consists of 36 members elected for a term of four years on a rotational basis. The Finance Committee is a subsidiary body of the Assembly. It has 15 elected members, which must include representatives of the five largest contributors to the administrative budget. A Legal and Technical Commission, currently consisting of 30 elected members, acts as a subsidiary body to the Council. The secretariat, which is based in Kingston, consists of a Secretary-General, elected for a period of four years, and administrative and technical staff. The current approved establishment of the secretariat is 52 Posts (2022: 50 Posts).

(c) The Assembly and Council meet once per year in Kingston. The Legal and Technical Commission meets twice per year. The organs of the Authority operate in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Translation of official documentation and interpretation services are provided, on a cost reimbursement basis, by the United Nations under a relationship agreement between the Authority and the United Nations signed in 1997. The working languages of the Secretariat are English and French.

(d) The primary function of the Authority is to manage deep seabed mining in the international seabed area (the subsoil beyond the limits of national jurisdiction). It does this through issuing contracts to qualified entities allowing them to explore for or exploit seabed mineral resources. The regulatory framework for these activities is laid down in the 1982 Convention, the 1994 Agreement and in regulations of the International Seabed Authority. The Authority had approved 30 contracts for exploration as of December 31, 2023 (2022: 31 contracts). The contracts are issued following approval by the Council of the International Seabed Authority, based on the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission. Exploration contracts last for 15 years, with the possibility of extensions for periods of five years each. Seabed mineral exploitation has not yet commenced, primarily owing to technical and financial challenges, as well as the lack of a regulatory framework. The Council has determined that the development of a regulatory framework for exploitation, including financial terms and standards for the protection of the marine environment, should be a priority for the Authority.

(e) Until such time as deep seabed mining commences, the income of the Authority shall be from assessed contributions by member states. The scale of contributions is based on the scale of contributions of the United Nations, adjusted for difference in membership. Limited cost recovery takes place through the imposition of application fees for new contracts and an annual overhead charge for existing contracts. Once deep seabed mining begins, the Authority will collect revenue from contractors in the form of royalties or other payments. Such income will be allocated to meet the administrative expenses of the Authority, with the surplus to be distributed to member states on the basis of equitable sharing criteria, with priority going to the least developed and landlocked States. The financial terms of contracts and criteria for sharing financial and economic benefits from deep seabed mining are yet to be developed.

(f) In support of its primary function, the Authority is also required to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the international seabed area. This is achieved through conducting technical studies and workshops, collaboration in international scientific research programmes and administration of an Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research through which grants may be awarded to scientists from developing countries for scientific research and training.

1 IDENTIFICATION (Cont'd)

(g) In addition to the above, the Authority is currently concentrating on the following activities:

1. Providing secretariat support to the organs of the Authority;
2. Preparing draft regulations for seabed mineral exploitation for consideration by the Legal and Technical Commission and the Council, including preparing studies on key issues, convening workshops and technical meetings and legal drafting;
3. Processing new applications for exploration contracts;
4. Administering existing contracts for exploration, including reviewing annual reports of contractors, analyzing data submitted by contractors and managing training programmes;
5. Building and maintaining a database on deep seabed minerals and related environmental characteristics, and managing access to data;
6. Developing regional environmental management plans to ensure the protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of deep seabed mining; and
7. Publishing technical reports, studies and briefings on issues of interest to member states.
8. Capacity development and technical cooperation.
9. Mineral resources and mining technologies.

2 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Standards adopted during the year

The Authority recognizes the effect of changes in the accounting policy retrospectively. The effect of changes in accounting policy are applied prospectively if retrospective application is impractical. The following standards were adopted during the year.

- IPSAS 41 – Financial Instruments

  The standard sets out requirements for recognition and measurement of financial instruments, including impairment, derecognition and general hedge accounting. The standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. IPSAS 41 replaces IPSAS 29. The Authority has adopted the IPSAS retrospectively and has restated the comparative information for 2022 for financial instruments in the scope of IPSAS 41. Changes arising from the adoption of IPSAS 41 are disclosed below.

Changes to the impairment calculation

The adoption of IPSAS has fundamentally changed the Authority's accounting for contributions receivable loss impairments by replacing IPSAS 29's incurred loss approach with a forward-looking expected credit loss (ECL) approach. IPSAS 41 requires the Authority to record an allowance for ECLs for all debt financial assets not held at fair value through surplus or deficit. The allowance is based on the ECLs associated with the probability of default in the next twelve months unless there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination, in which case the impairment is assessed over its lifetime. If the financial asset meets the definition of purchased or originated credit impaired (POCI), the allowance is based on the change in the ECLs over the life of the asset.

2 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES (Cont'd)

Standards adopted during the year (Cont'd)

- IPSAS 42 – Social Benefits

  The standard assist users of the financial statements and general-purpose financial reports assess the nature of social benefits provided by the entity, the features of the operation of social benefit schemes and the impact of social benefits on the entity's financial statements. The standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. The adoption of IPSAS 42 did not affect the presentation and disclosures in the Authority's financial statements.

Standards in issue not yet effective

At the date of authorization of these financial statements, the following Standards were in issue but not effective or early adopted for the financial period being reported on:

New and Revised Standards		Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
IPSAS 43	Leases	January 1, 2025
IPSAS 44	Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations	January 1, 2025
IPSAS 45	Property, Plant and Equipment	January 1, 2025
IPSAS 46	Measurement	January 1, 2025
IPSAS 47	Revenue	January 1, 2026
IPSAS 48	Transfer Expenses	January 1, 2026
IPSAS 49	Retirement Benefit Plans	January 1, 2026

The Authority will assess the relevant Standards and consider for implementation at their effective dates.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

(a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the Financial Regulations (ISBA/6/A/3) and Financial Rules (ST/SGB/2008/02) of the Authority, and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) developed and published by the international Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).

The financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost measurement basis and on a going concern basis.

Up to 2019, the financial statements reflected the assets, liabilities, and transactions relating to the General Administrative Fund only. The Authority also administers the following funds:

- Working Capital Fund
- Endowment Fund
- Voluntary Trust Fund
- Support Trust Fund
- Cost Recovery Fund
- ISA Partnership Fund

3 **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of preparation (Cont'd)

(a) Accounting convention (Cont'd)

Following the implementation of Enterprise Reporting System (ERP) in 2020, the above funds were incorporated in the Authority's accounting records. Accordingly, the bank accounts related to these funds were also captured in the accounting records. The status of these funds is set out in Note 25.

(b) Use of estimates and assumptions

The financial statements necessarily include amounts based on judgements, estimates and assumptions by management. Estimates include but are not limited to recoverability of accounts receivable; accrued charges; contingent assets and liabilities; and degree of impairment on property and equipment. Material changes in estimates are reflected in the period in which they become known.

As disclosed in Note 14, the Authority operates provides post-retirement medical benefits. The amounts shown in the statement of financial position as a liability of approximately $1.914 million (2022: $1.684 million) in respect of the post-retirement medical benefit are subject to estimates in respect of periodic costs which net costs would be dependent on inflation rates and rates of increases in medical costs for the post-retirement medical plan. External actuaries are contracted by the Authority in this regard.

Due to the complexities involved in the valuation and its long-term nature, a defined benefit obligation is highly sensitive to changes in these assumptions. The assumptions are reviewed at each reporting date.

The discount rates which are used to determine the present value of estimated cash outflows expected to be required to settle any future medical obligation are determined at the end of each reporting period by the contracted external actuaries. The Authority's defined benefit obligation is discounted at a rate set by reference to long term yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds or, in their absence, certain Government securities. Significant judgement is required when setting the criteria for bonds to be included in the population from which the yield curve is derived. The most significant criteria considered for the selection of the bonds include the issue size of the bonds and the quality of the bonds.

Judgement is also exercised in determining the proportionate share of the health obligation and cost as well as the extent that the surplus or deficit in the plan may affect the future contributions to the plan. Details of sensitivity analyses in respect of the post-retirement medical benefits are disclosed at Note 14(vi).

Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in United States dollars, which is the functional currency of the Authority, unless otherwise stated.

Foreign currencies

In preparing the financial statements of the Authority, transactions in currencies other than the Authority's functional currency, are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At the end of each reporting period, monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are re-translated using the United Nations Operational Rate of Exchange (UNORE) rates prevailing at that date. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are not re-translated.

Exchange differences are recognised in the statement of financial performance in the period in which they arise.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)

Presentation of budget information

The Authority prepares its annual financial statements on a full accrual basis, while its budget is prepared annually on a modified accrual basis.

Due to the different bases of budgets and financial statements, Statement 5 - Comparison of budget and actual amounts, as required under IPSAS 24 - Presentation of Budget Information in Financial Statements, is presented with explanations and clarifications of material variances between budget and actual data.

Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement
Contributions receivables and debt securities issued are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. A financial asset or financial liability is initially measured at fair value plus, for an item not at FVTSD, transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue. At initial recognition, the Authority measures receivables and payables at the original invoice amount if the effect of discounting is immaterial.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets

On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost or fair value through surplus or deficit (FVTSD).

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Authority changes its management model for managing financial assets, in which case all affected financial assets are reclassified on the first day of the first reporting period following the change in the management model.

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at FVTSD:

- it is held within a management model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Management model assessment
The Authority makes an assessment of the objective of the management model in which a financial asset is held at a portfolio level because this best reflects the way the organization is managed, and information is provided to management. The information considered includes:

- the stated policies and objectives for the portfolio and the operation of those policies in practice. These include whether management's strategy focuses on earning contractual interest income, maintaining a particular interest rate profile, matching the duration of the financial assets to the duration of any related liabilities or expected cash outflows or realizing cash flows through the sale of the assets;
- how the performance of the portfolio is evaluated and reported to the Authority's management;
- the risks that affect the performance of the management model (and the financial assets held within that management model) and how those risks are managed;

3 **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)**

Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

Financial assets (Cont'd)

Subsequent measurement and gains and losses

Financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit – These assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Net gains and losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in surplus or deficit

Financial assets at amortised cost – These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in surplus or deficit. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Financial liabilities

Classification, subsequent measurement and gains and losses
Financial liabilities are classified as financial liabilities at fair value through surplus or loss or amortised cost. The Authority determines the classification of its financial liabilities at initial recognition.

All financial liabilities are recognized initially at fair value and plus directly attributable transaction costs (where applicable).

The Authority's financial liabilities include payables and advanced contributions. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in surplus of deficit.

Derecognition

Financial assets
The Authority derecognizes a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which the Authority neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and it does not retain control of the financial asset. The Authority enters into transactions whereby it transfers assets recognised in its statement of financial position but retains either all or substantially all of the risks and rewards of the transferred assets. In these cases, the transferred assets are not derecognized.

Financial liabilities
The Authority derecognizes a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled or expire. The Authority also derecognises a financial liability when its terms are modified and the cash flows of the modified liability are substantially different, in which case a new financial liability based on the modified terms is recognised at fair value. On derecognition of a financial liability, the difference between the carrying amount extinguished and the consideration paid (including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed) is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Impairment of financial assets
The Authority recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The Authority measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs, except for the following, which are measured at 12-month ECLs:

- debt securities that are determined to have low credit risk at the reporting date; and
- other debt securities and bank balances for which credit risk (i.e., the risk of default occurring over the expected life of the financial instrument) has not increased significantly since initial recognition.

3 **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)**

Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

Financial assets (Cont'd)

Impairment of financial assets (Cont'd)

The Authority applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Therefore, the Authority does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Authority has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

Measurement of ECLs
ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e., the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Authority expects to receive).

Loss allowances for financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets.

The Authority assesses at each reporting date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (an incurred 'loss event') and that loss event has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or the group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition or construction of the PE items.

Subsequent costs, for which asset recognition criteria are met, are included in the asset's carrying amount only when they improve the condition of the fixed asset and extend the asset's useful life.

Property and equipment are recognized from the time they first become available for use by the Authority. A capitalization threshold of US$3,000 has been set for property and equipment items other than leasehold improvements. For leasehold improvements, the threshold is set at US$50,000.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method in order to spread the expenses over the estimated useful live. The basis for depreciation is the acquisition cost less the estimated residual value. The estimated useful lives for each class of property and equipment are as follows:

Computer equipment	2- 4 Years
Office equipment	5 Years
Motor vehicles	5 Years
Furniture and Fixtures	5 Years
Leasehold improvements	10 Years

Depreciation is charged on a monthly basis. Residual values of items of property and equipment are reviewed at each annual reporting date. In practice the residual value is set at nil. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are disclosed under other revenue or expenses in the statement of financial performance.

3 **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)**

Intangible assets

Intangible assets (software, licenses, trademark) are reported for the first time in the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2018. They are recorded on a prospective basis only, i.e. items qualified as intangible assets but acquired before 1 January 2018 were all expensed.

Intangible assets are capitalized if their costs meet the threshold of US$5,000, except for internally developed software, for which the capitalization threshold is US$100,000.

Intangible assets are recorded from the time they first become available for use by the Authority. Intangible assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated amortization and impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition or development of the intangible assets.

Useful life for intangible assets is set at five (5) years. Amortization is calculated using the straight-line method to spread the expenses over the estimated useful life.

Impairment of tangible and intangible assets

At the end of each reporting date, the Authority reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Authority estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Where a reasonable and consistent basis of allocation can be identified, corporate assets are also allocated to individual cash-generating units, or otherwise they are allocated to the smallest group of cash-generating units for which a reasonable and consistent allocation basis can be identified.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted. If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than the carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the statement of financial performance.

When an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years.

Provision and contingent liabilities

Provisions for liabilities and charges are recognized when the Authority has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be reliably estimated.

The amount of the provision is the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation as at the reporting date. The estimate is discounted when the effect of the time value of money is material.

Contingent liabilities for which the possible obligation is uncertain, or for which it is yet to be confirmed whether the Authority has a present obligation that could lead to an outflow of resources, or obligations that do not meet the recognition criteria here above (as per IPSAS 19), are disclosed.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)

Employee benefits

Employees are defined as staff members, within the meaning of Article 167 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, whose employment and contractual relationship is defined by a letter of appointment, subject to the regulations promulgated by the Assembly of the Authority pursuant to Article 167, paragraph 3, of the Convention. In practice, this means those persons with a temporary, fixed-term or permanent contract.

Obligations for new employees are recognized from the date they report to their duty station.

The Authority's employee benefits are classified into short-term and post-employment benefits.

(a) Short-term employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits are employee entitlements that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employee renders the related service. These benefits include annual and home leave.

Annual leave is an accumulating compensated absence. Employees are entitled to monetary settlement of the accrued annual leave balance upon separation from service, up to a maximum of 60 days. The organization therefore recognizes liability for the value of the total accumulated leave days of all staff members as of the reporting date.

Home leave travel is available to eligible staff and dependents. The liability represents the expected travel cost of the next home leave entitlement for qualifying staff, as adjusted for the proportion of service yet to be performed until the benefit is vested.

Owing to the short-term nature of these entitlements, the liability is not discounted for the time value of money.

(b) Post-employment employee benefits

Post-employment benefits provided by the Authority are:

(i) After-service health insurance, which provides worldwide coverage for necessary medical expenses of eligible former staff members and their dependents. The after-service health insurance liability represents the present value of the share of the Authority's medical insurance costs for retirees and the post-retirement benefit accrued to date by active staff;

(ii) End-of-service entitlements, which comprise the repatriation grant, shipping costs and travel expenses. A liability is recognized from when the staff member joins the Authority.

(c) United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF or the "Pension Fund")

The Authority is a member organization participating in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, which was established by the General Assembly to provide retirement, death, disability and related benefits to employees. The Pension Fund is a funded, multi-employer defined benefit plan. As specified in Article 3 (b) of its Regulations, membership in the Pension Fund shall be open to the specialized agencies and to any other international, intergovernmental organization that participates in the common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

The Pension Fund exposes participating organization to actuarial risks associated with the current and former employees of other participating organizations, with the result that there is no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, plan assets and costs to individual organizations participating in the plan. The Authority and the Pension Fund, in line with the other participating organizations, are not in a position to identify the Authority's proportionate share of the defined benefit obligations, the plan assets and the costs associated with the plan with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. Therefore, the Authority has treated this plan as if it were a defined contribution plan in line with the requirements of IPSAS 39. The Authority's contributions to the Pension Fund during the financial period are recognized as expenses in the statement of financial performance. The pension and health benefits are categorized as defined benefit plans.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)

Employee benefits (Cont'd)

(c) United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF or the "Pension Fund") (Cont'd)

Defined benefit plans are those where the obligation of the Authority is to provide agreed benefits and therefore the Authority bears the actuarial risk, that is, that the benefits will cost more or less than expected.

The liability for defined benefit plans is measured at the present value of the defined benefit obligation net of the fair value of the plan assets. Movements in the liability from the actuarial gains and losses are recognized in statement of financial position. All other changes in the liability are recognized in the statement of financial performance in the period in which they occur.

Related parties

The Authority regards a related party as a person or an entity with the ability to exert control individually or jointly, or to exercise significant influence over the Authority. Members of key management are regarded as related parties which comprise of the Secretary General.

Revenue

(a) Revenue from non-exchange transactions

The Authority's revenue from non-exchange transactions such as assessed contributions from Member states is recognized to the extent that the transaction creates an asset without a corresponding deferred revenue liability. When the transaction has stipulations that amount to conditions attached, revenue is recognized only to the extent that any corresponding asset exceeds the liability.

The Authority recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) are recognized on receivables relating to non-exchange revenue. All contributions receivables are presented in statement of financial position net of these allowances.

The Authority has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

The Authority recognizes revenue under exchange transactions when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the Authority and those benefits can be measured reliably. No revenue is recognized unless these two primary conditions are met. Interest income is accrued on a time-apportionment basis by reference to the principal sum outstanding and the effective interest rate applicable.

(a) Goods-in-kind contributions

Goods-in-kind contributions are recognized at their fair value, and goods and corresponding revenue are recognized immediately if no conditions are attached. If conditions are attached, a liability is recognized until such conditions are met and the present obligation is satisfied. Revenue is recognized at fair value, measured as at the date the donated assets are acquired.

(b) Services-in-kind contributions

Services-in-kind contributions are not recognized in the financial statements as revenue. The nature and type of service are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The Authority receives service-in-kind contribution from the Government of Jamaica in the form of free rental space for its Headquarters premises in Jamaica Conference Center, Kingston. The approximate value of this in-kind contribution amounts to US$327,936 (or JM$50,671,000) (2022: US$330,809 (or J$50,671,000)) for the space of 35,181 square feet, currently used by the Authority.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in bank and short-term investments, net of outstanding bank overdraft. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement can be reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Cash and bank balances (Note 4(a))	7,417,839	7,187,053
Other funds administered by the Authority (Note 4(b))	6,388,950	6,159,665
	13,806,789	13,346,718

(a) Cash at banks earn interest at floating rates based on the daily bank deposit rates.

(b) These funds are in respect of other funds administered by the Authority and comprise:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Working capital fund (Note 25 (a))	721,788	697,863
Endowment fund (Note 25 (b))	4,494,986	4,259,516
Voluntary trust funds (Note 25 (c))	71,645	164,973
Support trust fund (Note 25 (d))	407,050	649,124
Cost recovery fund (Note 25 (e))	319,114	256,065
ISA Partnership fund (Note 25 (f))	374,367	132,124
	6,388,950	6,159,665

5 MEMBERS ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

	2023	2022
	$	$
Current year's assessment	333,712	696,160
Prior year's assessment	416,966	716,181
Contractor	155,140	50,000
Less: Expected credit loss for uncollected receivables for the current year	(7,431)	(16,681)
Less: Expected credit loss for uncollected receivables for the previous years	(216,360)	(233,774)
	682,027	1,211,886

Movement in expected credit loss for contributions receivable

	2023	2022
	$	$
Balance at beginning of the year	250,455	148,738
Net re-measurement in provision	(26,664)	101,717
Balance at the end of the year	223,791	250,455

5 MEMBERS ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE (Cont'd)

Ageing analysis of the members associated contribution receivables

	2023 $	2022 $
Current	333,712	696,160
< 2 years	197,694	449,255
2 to 5 years	112,420	115,716
Over 5 years	106,852	151,210
Gross contributions receivable	750,678	1,412,341

(a) Seventy-seven member states had not fully paid their 2023 assessed contribution amounts as of December 31, 2023 (seventy-nine member states with regard to 2022 assessed contributions).

(b) Forty-two member states have not fully paid their 1998-2021 assessed contribution amounts as of December 31, 2023 (fifty-eight members in 2022 with regard to 1998-2020 assessed contribution amounts).

6 OTHER RECEIVABLE

The analysis of other receivables is as follows:

	2023 $	2022 $
Supplier advances	244,005	182,524
Prepaid insurance	4,631	4,579
Other	45,348	102,404
	293,984	289,507

7 ADVANCES TO STAFF

	2023 $	2022 $
J$ payments due from staff	109	117
Other advances	139,866	147,527
	139,975	147,644

Advances to staff include both normal advance payments to staff, and advance payments for employee benefits such as home leave, education grants. Based on IPSAS delivery principle, these payments remain as advances for the proportion of service yet to be performed by the concerned staff member until the benefit is vested.

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

8 PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	Motor Vehicles	Computer Equipment	Furniture and Fixtures	Office Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$
At cost						
January 1, 2022	172,591	277,023	504,133	247,164	216,049	1,416,960
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
December 31, 2022	172,591	277,023	504,133	247,164	216,049	1,416,960
Additions	-	23,602	-	39,070	-	62,672
December 31, 2023	172,591	300,625	504,133	286,234	216,049	1,479,632
Depreciation						
January 1, 2022	77,756	251,146	385,220	214,999	64,827	993,948
Charge for year	33,376	14,224	55,636	20,899	21,612	145,747
December 31, 2022	111,132	265,370	440,856	235,898	86,439	1,139,695
Charge for year	24,810	10,436	52,763	14,408	21,613	124,030
December 31, 2023	135,942	275,806	493,619	250,306	108,052	1,263,725
Net Book Value						
December 31, 2023	36,649	24,819	10,514	35,928	107,997	215,907
December 31, 2022	61,459	11,653	63,277	11,266	129,610	277,265

9 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Software, Licenses and Trademarks
	$
Cost	
January 1, 2022, December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023	76,431
Amortization	
January 1, 2022	44,513
Amortization for year	14,463
December 31, 2022	58,976
Amortization for year	10,689
December 31, 2023	69,665
Net Book Value	
December 31, 2023	6,766
December 31, 2022	17,455

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

10 PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

	2023 $	2022 $
Annual leave liability	510,954	516,648
Accrued home leave	295,693	296,563
Application fees payable	-	162,368
Other accounts payable and accruals	57,790	18,088
	864,437	993,667

11 OTHER PROVISIONS

These are services rendered and provided for by the reporting date for which the related invoices had not been received as of that date

12 ADVANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

These amounts represent the following year's assessed contributions amount received during the year

13 REPATRIATION BENEFITS

Repatriation benefits include repatriation grant, travel and removal costs on staff member's separation from service, the provisions made annually to be paid upon separation of staff members.

	2023 $	2022 $
Current entitlements	19,917	58,841
Non-current entitlements	282,538	179,698
	302,455	238,539

14 AFTER SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT

The Authority sponsors an insured health plan covering its full-time employees and retirees. The most recent valuation at December 31, 2023 (2022: December 31, 2022), was carried out on February 28, 2024 (2022: March 4, 2023), by Corrinne Bellamy (Sagicor Employee Benefit Administrator Limited), Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

(a) Principal actuarial assumptions at the end of the reporting period (expressed as weighted averages)

	2023 **%**	2022 **%**
Financial		
Discount rate	7.5	10.0
Price inflation (CPI)	2.5	2.5
Medical claims growth	4.5	6.0

14 AFTER SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT (Cont'd)

(a) Principal actuarial assumptions at the end of the reporting period (expressed as weighted averages) (Cont'd)

Demographic

Men and women are expected to retire in line with normal retirement ages of the UNSPF pension regulations which stipulates:

Date of hire	NRA (years)
Before 1 January 1990	60
On 1 January 1990 and before 1 January 2014	62
On and after 1 January 2014	65

*No allowances were made for exits before retirement.

Mortality

RP-2014 Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Rates projected to the measurement date, using the American 1994 Group Annuitant Mortality static (GAM94S) with a 5-year Mortality

Other

	2023	2022
	Years	**Years**
Average liability duration		
All participants	22	22

(b) Post-employment medical benefits

	2023	2022
	$	$
Present value of the obligation and liability recognised in statement of financial position	1,914,000	1,684,000

(c) Movements in post-employment medical benefits

	2023	2022
	$	$
Balance at beginning of year	1,684,000	2,361,000
Contributions paid	(95,000)	(108,000)
Authority's expense	204,000	200,000
Net expense recognised in net assets	121,000	(769,000)
Balance at end of year	1,914,000	1,684,000

(d) Expense recognised in the statement of financial performance

	2023	2022
	$	$
Current service cost	40,000	73,000
Interest cost on obligation	164,000	127,000
Net expense included in surplus	204,000	200,000
Items recognised in net asset:		
Remeasurement loss on obligation	121,000	(769,000)
	325,000	(569,000)

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

14 AFTER SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT (Cont'd)

(e) Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	2023 $	2022 $
Opening defined benefit obligation	1,684,000	2,361,000
Service cost	40,000	73,000
Interest cost on obligation	164,000	127,000
Remeasurement loss/(gain) on obligation due to:		
- Experience adjustments	(506,000)	176,000
- Financial assumptions	627,000	(945,000)
Benefits paid	(95,000)	(108,000)
Closing present value of the defined benefit obligation	1,914,000	1,684,000

(f) A quantitative sensitivity analyses for significant assumptions at the end of the reporting period is shown below:

	2023			
Assumptions	Sensitivity Level Increase	Impact on Defined Benefits Obligation $	Sensitivity Level Decrease	Benefits Obligations $
Financial				
Discount rate	-1%/+1%	245,000	1%	(201,000)
Medical claims growth	-1%/+1%	(208,000)	1%	245,000
Demographic				
Life expectancy	-1yr/+1yr	(57,000)	1 year	560,000

	2022			
Assumptions	Sensitivity Level Increase	Impact on Defined Benefits Obligation $	Sensitivity Level Decrease	Impact on Defined Benefits Obligations $
Financial				
Discount rate	-1%/+1%	195,000	1%	(161,000)
Medical claims growth	-1%/+1%	(168,000)	1%	195,000
Demographic				
Life expectancy	-1yr/+1yr	(45,000)	1 year	45,000

(g) Post-employment medical obligation benefit

	2023 $	2022 $	2021 $	2020 $
Present value of the post-employment benefit obligation in the Plan	1,914,000	1,684,000	2,361,000	2,203,000
Experience adjustments arising on plan liabilities – (Gain)/Loss	(506,000)	176,000	(54,000)	263,000

(h) The Authority's estimated net expense for 2024 is $0.199 million (2022: 2023 is $0.212 million)

15 ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME

The amount represents the net assessed contributions from member states.

16 THE ENTERPRISE

This amount represents the net assessed contributions from member states.

17 OVERHEAD CHARGES

These amounts represent the annual charge of US$80,000 per contractor for 30 (2022: 31) contractors.

18 INTEREST INCOME

	2023 $	2022 $
Interest income from:		
Other General Administrative Fund bank accounts	88,717	82,105
Interest Income from Non-General Administrative Fund (Note 25)	238,695	201,074
	327,412	283,179

19 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

Miscellaneous income include income from mineral research and development.

20 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE OF THE SECRETARIAT (SECTION 1)

These comprise all costs related staff as well as the costs relating to the substantive areas of the Authority's work.

	2023 $	2022 $
Established posts	3,997,337	3,626,118
Common Staff Costs	2,386,725	2,239,228
General Temporary Assistance	21,770	26,609
Overtime	8,857	7,895
Consultants (non-programme)	7,616	19,558
Training	19,628	57,822
Official travel (non-programme)	91,364	127,702
Communications	67,246	77,913
Library books and supplies	76,143	51,785
External Printing (20 percent non-programme)	1,634	11,715
Supplies and materials	61,148	41,976
Official Hospitality	7,265	5,169
Information Technology	82,134	72,101
Acquisition of equipment and furniture and others	80,433	88,924
Rental & maintenance of equipment and furniture	5,206	2,387
United Nations common system	138,868	72,473
Miscellaneous services and costs	86,315	87,806
Audit fees	20,219	26,325
Building management	446,058	412,155
IPSAS/ERP related	-	28,067
	7,605,966	7,083,728

21 CONFERENCE SERVICING COSTS (SECTION 2)

	2023 $	2022 $
Printing and supplies	3,623	1,391
General Temporary Assistant	69,271	79,436
Rental of Conference Centre	117,133	170,877
Local transportation	8,146	3,068
Miscellaneous conference service costs	87,353	154,242
Rental of equipment	31,199	5,258
Meeting services	956,204	909,536
Documentation	390,356	791,206
Reception	7,795	15,269
	1,671,080	2,130,283

22 COST OF PROGRAMMES (SECTIONS 3 - 5)

	2023 $	2022 $
Development of the regulatory framework for activities in the Area (Programme 3.1)	296,929	280,294
Protection of the marine environment (Programme 3.2)	229,326	520,314
Management of contracts (Programme 3.3)	-	76,921
Data management (resource and environment) (Programme 3.4)	193,542	277,512
Promotion and encouragement of marine scientific research in the Area (Programme 3.5)	169,172	317,411
Outreach activities (Programme 3.6)	122,617	81,334
Capacity development and technical cooperation (Programme 3.7)	197,499	275,283
Mineral resources and mining technologies (Programme 3.8)	135,662	361,047
Compliance Assurance and Regulatory Management Unit (Section 4)	516,766	-
The Enterprise expenditure (Section 5)	39,266	-
	1,900,779	2,190,116

23 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related parties to the Authority with the ability to exercise significant influence over the Authority's financial and operating decisions. For the Authority, these include: key management personnel and close members of the family of key management personnel, identified as the Secretary General and members of the ISA Senior Management Group, namely Legal Counsel; Director of Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources; Chief of Staff and Head of the Strategic Planning Unit and Director of Office for Administrative Services. The total remuneration, the number of individuals and any loans are as follows:

	2023 $	2022 $
Compensation and post adjustments	1,198,572	811,983
Other entitlements	99,018	77,526
Pension plan and health benefits	231,598	152,000
Total remuneration	1,529,188	1,041,509
Number of individuals	5	4

24 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ND FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in Note 3 to the financial statements.

The Authority's principal financial instruments comprise contributions receivable, cash and short-term deposits and other payables. The main risks arising from the Authority's financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk, foreign currency risk and interest rate risk. Those charged with governance are responsible for managing the risks summarized below:

Credit risk
Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Authority if customers or counterparties to financial instruments fail to meet their contractual obligations, and it arises principally from the Authority's members assessed contribution receivables, other receivables and cash and cash equivalents. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure.

The maximum exposure to credit risk as at December 31, was:

	2023 $	2022 $
- Members assessed contributions receivable	682,027	1,221,886
- Other receivables	45,348	102,405
- Advances to staff	109	118
- Cash and cash equivalents	13,806,789	13,346,718
	14,534,273	14,671,127

The Authority does not have credit risk associated with exchange transactions. Receivables represent the unpaid contributions or unpaid part of contributions from the member states which is governed by the membership rules. Expected credit loss recognised on contributions receivable are detailed in Note 5. The Authority believes that as these are sovereign debt, the amounts are collectible.

Liquidity risk
Liquidity risk is the risk that the entity will encounter difficulty in raising funds to meet its commitments. The Authority's activities are funded by the contributions received by its member states. The compliance rate is usually adequate to meet the funding needs of the Authority and as a result liquidity risk is considered low.

Foreign currency risk
Currency risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Authority had no significant foreign currency exposure and an insignificant portion of its expenses are in Jamaican dollars. Contributions and other relevant activities are incurred in US Dollars. Jamaican Dollars (JMD) for payment of local staff salaries and other local purchases. The US Dollars held are converted to JMD on an as-needed basis, therefore exchange rate risk is minimal.

Interest rate risk
Interest rate risk is risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. At the statement of financial position date, the Authority had no significant exposure to interest rate risk as the cash and cash equivalents held bear minimal interest rates and the Authority has no borrowings.

Fair value
The following methods and assumptions have been used in determining the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities:

- The carrying amounts included in the financial statements for cash and cash equivalents, members assessed contribution receivable, advances to staff and other receivables and other payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to the short-term maturity of these instruments.

Fair value measurements recognized in the Statement of Financial Position:
There were no financial instruments that were measured subsequent to initial recognition at fair value or for which fair value disclosures are required that would be significant to the financial instruments held by the Authority.

25 **OTHER FUNDS**

(a) Working Capital Fund

Accumulated contributions to the Authority's Working Capital Fund as at December 31, 2023 totaled US$721,788 (2022: US$697,863) with a movement of US$23,925 (2022: US$23,922) for the year. The authorized ceiling of this fund was increased from US$660,000 to US$705,000 in 2022 (ISBA/25/A/14). Outstanding contributions totaled the amount of US$5,712 (2022: US$7,137). No funds were drawn from the Working Capital Fund for operational purposes in 2023 and 2022.

(b) Endowment Fund

The Assembly at the 12th Session of the Authority requested the Secretary-General to establish a general account to be known as the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area. It was also decided that the initial capital of the fund should consist of the balance remaining as at 18 August 2006 from the application fees paid by the registered Pioneer Investors together with interest accrued thereon. On 25 September 2009, the FDR Germany approved the transfer of the fees paid on 20 December 2005 plus interest accrued thereon to the Endowment Fund.

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	4,259,516	4,053,066
Contributions	-	20,000
Interest income (Note 18)	235,470	200,195
Less: expenses	-	(13,745)
Closing balance	4,494,986	4,259,516

(c) Voluntary Trust Funds

The Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) consists of three funds. The first fund was established in 2002 for the purposes of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) and the Finance Committee from developing countries in meetings of the Commission and the Committee.

The movement of the first Voluntary Fund during the year:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	135,749	145,038
Contributions	55,500	69,775
Interest income (Note 18)	3,225	879
Less: expenses	(147,948)	(79,943)
Closing balance	46,526	135,749

The second Voluntary Trust Fund was established in 2017 for the purposes of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Council in their meetings.

The movement of the second Voluntary Trust Fund during the year:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	12,407	31,993
Contribution	72,334	22,000
Less: expenses	(48,031)	(41,586)
Closing balance	36,710	12,407

25 **OTHER FUNDS (Cont'd)**

(c) Voluntary Trust Funds (cont'd)

The third Voluntary Trust Fund was established in 2019 for the purpose of providing the requisite funds related to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Enterprise (ISBA/25/C/16).

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	16,949	5,614
Contribution	7,500	21,339
Less: expenses	(16,921)	(10,004)
Closing balance	7,528	16,949

	2023	2022
	$	$
Reconciliation		
Voluntary Trust Fund 1	46,526	135,749
Voluntary Trust Fund 2	36,710	12,407
Voluntary Trust Fund 3	7,528	16,949
	90,764	165,105
Refund to be credited to GAF	(19,119)	(132)
Balance in bank account	71,645	164,973

(d) Support Trust Fund

The Support Trust Fund was established in 2018 for the purpose of collecting donations meant to fund various activities in support of the implementation of ISA's mandates.

Movements of the Support Trust Fund during the year:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	649,124	697,707
Contributions	246,340	447,900
Less: expenses	(488,414)	(496,483)
Closing balance	407,050	649,124

25 **OTHER FUNDS (Cont'd)**

(e) Cost Recovery Fund

The Cost Recovery Fund was established in 2020 for the purpose of fairly compensating the Authority's resources consumed by receiving the indirect cost charges and direct cost recoveries, considered as spendable income, related to extra-budgetary and voluntary contributions. These chargers aim to ensure that the additional costs of supporting extra-budgetary activities are not financed by the General Administrative Budget (ISBA/ST/SGB/2020/2).

Movements of the Cost Recovery Fund during the year:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	256,065	505,178
Contributions	250,650	8,681
Less: expenses	(187,601)	(257,794)
Closing balance	319,114	256,065

(f) ISA Partnership Fund

The Partnership Fund was established in line with the decision of the Assembly during the 27th session, in 2022, as a multi-donor trust fund pursuant to regulation 5.5 of the Financial Regulations of the International Seabed Authority. The objectives of the Partnership Fund are to: (a) Promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole. (b) Provide qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing States with opportunities to participate in international marine scientific research programmes, including through training, technical assistance and scientific cooperation programmes (ISBA/27/A/L.2).

Movements of the Partnership Fund during the year:

	2023	2022
	$	$
Opening balance	132,124	-
Contributions	272,243	132,124
Less: expenses	(30,000)	-
Closing balance	374,367	132,124