



**Statement on International Women’s Day 2025**

**Kingston, Jamaica**

**8 March 2025**

STATEMENT

by

Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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On this International Women’s Day, I celebrate the strength, resilience and brilliance of women and girls worldwide.

As an oceanographer and now the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, I understand the barriers women—particularly those from developing countries like me—face in pursuing leadership roles in science and governance.

Yet, I also know that these barriers can be overcome.

Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in ocean science, especially in leadership. That is why I am deeply committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women scientists globally.

Through the Women in Deep-Sea Research Project, the Authority provides mentorship, career guidance and training opportunities to increase the participation and leadership of women scientists from developing States in deep-sea research.

As I reflect on my journey—from oceanographer to the first woman to lead the International Seabed Authority—I hope to inspire more women and girls to pursue careers in ocean science and governance.

Global leadership in science and decision-making must reflect the diversity and talent of all humankind. Today, I reaffirm my commitment to a more inclusive future in ocean science and invite you to join me in making it a reality.

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