



Kingston, Jamaica

30 October 2025

A healing message to International Seabed Authority staff in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa

by

Madam Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Leticia Carvalho

Dear Colleagues,

As we emerge from the passage of Hurricane Melissa, I write with a profound sense of gratitude, compassion, and solidarity. Over the past few days, we have collectively endured one of the most intense and challenging weather events in recent years. While much of the island has been spared the full brunt of the hurricane, the situation in western Jamaica has been deeply distressing. Reports indicate extensive infrastructural damage, severe flooding, lives lost and widespread disruption to livelihoods across several parishes of our host country. Our thoughts are firmly with the people and communities there, and with all who are beginning the difficult process of recovery and rebuilding.

I know that for many among our staff, the devastation in the west is not just a distant event but a personal one. Some of you have family, friends and loved ones in the impacted areas, and I can only imagine the worry, sense of helplessness and pain this brings. Please know that the Organisation stands with you during this difficult time. We will explore ways to extend our support, both through our duty of care to staff and through engagement with national authorities and partners involved in the wider recovery effort.

Even as we grieve the destruction that Hurricane Melissa has left in its aftermath, we can take heart in the strength and unity that our team has once again demonstrated. Your professionalism, composure, and compassion have been extraordinary. Many of you continued to provide assistance and reassurance to colleagues while safeguarding your own families and communities. The ISA Disaster Preparedness and Response Team has been exemplary in coordinating efforts, maintaining communication, and ensuring that no one was left behind. To our zonal wardens and focal points, I extend my deepest thanks for your steadfastness and humanity during these difficult days.

In the coming weeks, recovery will require not only infrastructure reconstruction but also emotional healing. Let's all be patient with each other while delivering our obligations to Member States.