



**Breakfast Meeting with Permanent Representatives of the International
Seabed Authority ahead of Part II of the 31st Session**

Remarks by Madam Leticia Carvalho

Secretary-General, ISA

12 June 2026

Kingston, Jamaica

Good morning, Excellencies,

Distinguished Members of the Authority,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you once again to the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority, a place that I often describe as a home for all Members of the Authority.

A warm welcome to those of you here with us in Kingston this morning, and equally to the many Representatives and heads of delegation joining online from your missions and capitals around the world. I am glad we are able to bring you all together for this informal breakfast meeting.

Allow me, as always, to express my deep appreciation to our host country, beautiful Jamaica, for its continued support to the work of the Authority and for the hospitality extended to delegations throughout the year.

Excellencies,

As we prepare for the second part of the thirty-first session of the Council, I would like to thank all delegations of the Members of the Authority for their engagement during the first part of the session and throughout the intersessional period.

The months since March have been particularly intensive. Delegations, facilitators, the President of the Council, and the Secretariat have all devoted considerable time and effort to advancing the Council's work.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Mayank Joshi, High Commissioner of India to Jamaica and President of the Council for the thirty-first session, whose guidance has helped maintain momentum and facilitate constructive engagement during this important phase of the Council's work.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the Vice-Presidents of the Council, as well as the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee, in ensuring that the second part of the thirty-first session is conducted in an efficient, transparent and inclusive manner.

The purpose of today's meeting is straightforward: to provide you with an overview of the preparations for the upcoming meetings and to assist delegations in planning for what promises to be a very substantive and demanding session.

In a few moments, colleagues from across the Secretariat will provide briefings on matters directly related to the preparations for the second part of the thirty-first session, including:

- the intersessional work undertaken since March;
- the indicative programme of work;
- revision 3 of the Further Revised Consolidated Text and the revised list of outstanding issues;
- a status on the work of the Legal and Technical Commission, the Finance Committee, the Council and the Assembly, including matters relating to the proposed budget for 2027–2028;
- recent litigation involving contractors.

I will therefore not address those matters in detail this morning, as my colleagues are better placed to provide a comprehensive overview.

Excellencies,

What is already clear is that the upcoming session will involve a broad and ambitious agenda extending well beyond the negotiations on the exploitation regulations.

The negotiations on the mining code will remain a central focus of the Council's work. In that regard, an important complementary discussion will concern the development of standards and guidelines. As delegations will recall, during the first part of the session the Council requested the Legal and Technical Commission to further consolidate and prioritize this work and to provide recommendations, including a possible timeline or roadmap for the development of standards and guidelines. Delegations will therefore have an opportunity to consider how that work should proceed in support of the regulatory framework.

Allow me to briefly highlight a few additional matters that will come before the Council.

The Council will consider a number of important institutional, financial and governance matters, including the proposed budget of the Authority for 2027–2028. The budget discussions will necessarily be linked to the continued evolution of the Authority as a regulator and to the practical implementation of the evolutionary approach that has guided the development of the Authority under the Convention and the 1994 Agreement.

Among several proposals is the proposed Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, which is intended to enhance efficiency, strengthen information management and support data and personnel security across the organization.

The Council will also consider the report of the Finance Committee, including matters relating to the financial implications, operational requirements, and

possible timeline for the establishment of the Economic Planning Commission.

It will further consider matters relating to the benefit-sharing mechanisms under UNCLOS, including ongoing discussions concerning the Common Heritage Fund. As requested by the Assembly, the Secretariat has prepared a concept note setting out the possible functionalities of the Common Heritage Fund as one of the possible ways for distribution of income from activities in the Area to be shared.

In addition, the Council will take up the report of the Legal and Technical Commission, matters relating to the status of contracts for exploration, requests for extension of exploration contracts, an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration, and my report on the implementation of the Council's 2025 decision concerning the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission.

Allow me also to recall an important point arising from the Council's decision to organize its work through a thematic approach.

The thirty-first session is expected not only to advance the negotiations on the draft regulations, but also to provide guidance on the way forward, including the discussion of a third part of the session in November 2026.

Additionally, the Council will be expected to consider and determine an appropriate roadmap for 2027, building on the progress achieved during the current session and identifying priorities for the work ahead.

This makes the upcoming meetings particularly significant. They represent an opportunity not only to continue substantive negotiations, but also to shape the direction and organization of the Council's work in the coming year.

Before we turn to the briefing, allow me also to leave you with three practical appeals through you to capitals.

First, the July meetings will address a number of important issues requiring political guidance and, potentially, decisions. I would therefore encourage delegations to seek sufficient flexibility and appropriate mandates from their capitals to engage fully on the key outstanding matters before the Council.

Second, delegations may wish to consult with their capitals regarding the possible need for a third part of the thirty-first session, should the Council conclude that additional time is required to complete its work programme.

Third, I would encourage your support for the continued strengthening of the Secretariat. As the Authority's responsibilities expand, it is important that the institution is equipped with the expertise, systems and operational capacity necessary to fulfill effectively the functions entrusted to it by you, Member States.

Excellencies,

The Secretariat remains fully committed to supporting you, the Permanent Representatives and all delegations, together with the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council, the facilitators, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Legal and Technical Commission, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance

Committee, in ensuring that the second part of the thirty-first session is conducted in an efficient, transparent and inclusive manner.

I hope that today's briefing will assist delegations in their preparations and provide greater clarity regarding the work that lies ahead.

Thank you once again for joining us this morning.

I now invite Bruno Pozzi, my Deputy & Chef de Cabinet, to take the floor and guide us through the next part.

Thank you.