



**MINISTERIO  
DE RELACIONES  
EXTERIORES**



**UN-OHCHR**

# Workshop on the Participation of LLDCs in the Regime of the Area and the Benefit-Sharing Mechanism under UNCLOS



**13 - 15 October 2026**



**Santa Cruz de la Sierra,  
Plurinational State of Bolivia**

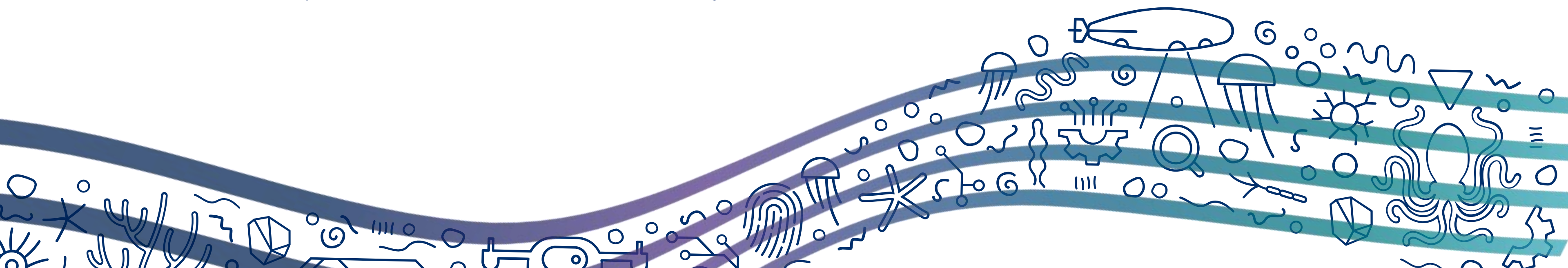




# Agenda item 6 - Benefit-sharing from activities in the Area: principles, mechanisms and LLDC interests

**Equitable benefit-sharing: practical implications of mechanisms under consideration**

**Kaiser de Sousa | International Seabed Authority**





# What exactly are we seeking to share?



## Financial Benefits

**Royalties and other distributable proceeds from activities in the Area, subject to applicable rules and obligations.**

## Other Economic Benefits

**Scientific knowledge and access to data, specialized technical expertise, technology-related cooperation, professional training and capacity development, stronger scientific and regulatory institutions.**

**Equitable sharing concerns financial proceeds and meaningful economic benefits.**





## Five findings from recent analytical work



- **Equity depends on the criteria used, not simply equal allocations.**
- **Population, income and vulnerability indicators yield different outcomes.**
- **Future revenues remain uncertain in timing, scale and regularity.**
- **Small individual allocations may have limited developmental value.**
- **Collective investment may last longer, but requires effective governance.**

**For LLDCs: the criteria and mechanism chosen shape the form and practical value of benefits.**



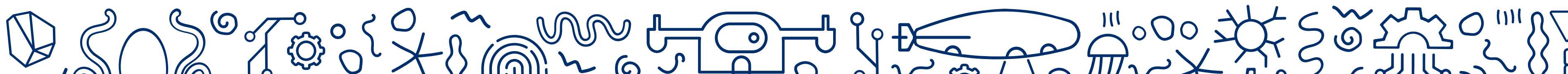
# What do the two approaches mean in practice?



# LLDC question: how are differing needs reflected in allocation criteria?

## LLDC question: who can access funding, and under what criteria?

**Both approaches remain under consideration; combinations are possible.**





# Common Heritage Fund — how might benefits reach LLDCs?

Possible distributable resources →  
a Fund under consideration →  
eligible programmes and lasting benefits

## People & Institutions

Training, professional skills and stronger institutions

## Science & Knowledge

Research partnerships, access to data and technical learning

## Technology & Cooperation

Technical assistance and regional partnerships

## Shared Public Value

Collective benefits with longer-term significance

Illustrative possibilities only; funding purposes, eligibility and governance have not been approved.



## From revenues to distributable benefits: why sequencing matters



### 1. Revenue received

Payments arising from activities in the Area.

### 2. Applicable financial priorities

Administrative expenses are a first call under UNCLOS Article 173.

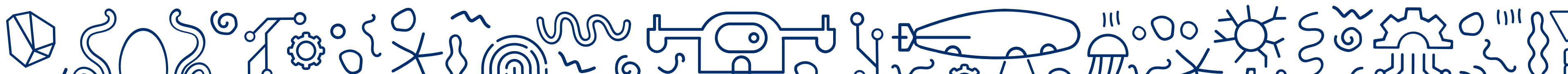
### 3. Potentially distributable resources

The amount remaining depends on applicable obligations and decisions.

### 4. Agreed sharing mechanism

Direct distribution, Fund-based or combined options remain under consideration.

Revenue received does not automatically equal the amount available for equitable sharing.





# What practical choices matter most for LLDCs?



- **Equity:** which criteria reflect development needs and vulnerability?
- **Benefits:** which scientific, technical and institutional investments matter most?
- **Participation:** how can LLDCs help shape eligibility and governance?
- **Partnerships:** which terrestrial mineral-sector strengths can be mobilized?



## From analysis to decisions: questions for LLDCs



- **Which equity criteria deserve particular consideration for LLDCs?**
- **Which mix of financial and other economic benefits would be most useful?**
- **How can LLDCs participate in shaping the arrangements?**
- **What partnerships and capabilities could deliver long-term value?**

**Discussion outcomes can inform ISA deliberations and possible Santa Cruz Roadmap follow-up.**





# Thank you

